



It's out!

For the past several months, we have been devoting part of our time to researching and compiling some of the history of Belle Glade.

The results can be found in this week's Belle Glade Herald.

The facts are, even 32 pages couldn't hold all the information we gathered and some of it had to get left out.

But we're pretty proud of what we have done and we hope you will find it informative and interesting.

One of the stories that did get left out concerns the banks of the city.

George Wedgworth showed me a stock certificate issued to his father, H.H. Wedgworth, back in the early '30s. On the top of the certificate was printed "First National Bank of Belle Glade" and a pen had been used to scratch through "First National."

Apparently, what had happened was that this was the earliest attempt to get a bank in Belle Glade and when the national charter attempt fell through, the organizers tried for a state charter.

It must have fallen through as well. So some of them, including C.E. Riedel and W.G. Stang, regrouped and formed Everglades Federal Savings and Loan.

Two other things that were left out were interviews with two prominent pioneers...Ralph Kidder and James Ball.

However, their interviews were used in other ways to contribute heavily to the issue. We used the information they gave us about the early days to go back and write stories about things that had happened.

Both these men contributed greatly to the historical issue and we sincerely appreciate their efforts.

Another man, who hasn't been around for a long, long time, also helped a great deal. He is Luther Jones, who was founder, editor and publisher of the Belle Glade Herald.

In gathering the news, Luther also gathered the infinite details of Belle Glade's history. Most of the information in the issue came from the papers he produced.

Then a lot of it came from the Everglades News, owned and published by Howard Sharp in Canal Point. Sharp's paper provided information as far back as 1921.

I can't say it hasn't been fun...never would have attempted it if it wasn't at least partially fun.

I can say it was informative...very much so. So much so that in mid-stream we kinda changed our tactics. Rather than re-write what others had done, we decided to look into the "whys" of why Belle Glade is and came up with the answer...the people.

So we decided to write about them more than the usual things like new city halls, etc.

In the issue, you'll find out some things about the people of the area, and what they build with hard work, guts and a lot of imagination.

We've also pointed out a few ways you can go back and research a little of Belle Glade's history for yourself.

One other thing that we need to mention is about Lawrence Will. There's a guy who is after my own heart. He can truly be classified as one of the Glades' leading citizens.

I heartily recommend Mr. Will's books to everyone in the Glades. It's hard to think of a more satisfying evening than curling up with Okeechobee Catfishing or From Swamp to Sugar Bowl.

Belle Glade Herald

"Voice of the Glades"

Published each Thursday at 425 S. Main Street in Belle Glade
Tel. 305 996-2056
Established 1929

B.F. Lampton

Publisher

Dean Jones

Editor

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Advertising Manager

Lori Shokfield

Society

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News-Advertising

P.O. Box 714

Belle Glade, FL 33438

Second Class Postage Paid at Belle Glade, Florida, Publication

Number 049720

Opinion

CRACKER CRUMBS

BY DEAN JONES



Irate over insurance

The results of one of the most revealing public opinion surveys to come down the pike in recent years should make especially interesting reading for some of our state legislators over the next few weeks as they get into the annual legislative session.

The survey was performed by the AAA Motor Clubs of Florida and the results were recently printed in the AAA's legislative program and recommendations.

One of the most interesting findings came in auto insurance, when 80 percent of the respondents said they favor a limitation on the amount plaintiffs can collect for pain and suffering resulting from automobile accidents as a consideration in lawsuits.

In a land where a 55 percent majority vote in an election is considered a landslide victory, it would be nice to know a few of our legislators, would-be lawmakers and public servants might pay attention to an 80 percent majority opinion.

In case that doesn't happen, and considering the number of attorneys in the state legislature it would be surprising if such a limitation were passed as a statute, it would be nice to know the voters would remember who chose to ignore the facts when it comes time to troop to the polls again in September, October and November.

In the meantime, it would also be nice to know State Insurance Commissioner Bill Gurn's FAIR amendment could at least be placed on the ballot...even if our "leaders" in Tallahassee don't want to give us our choice.

According to the survey, and it reflects the feedback we've

heard on the subject, Florida's motorists aren't against insurance. They're simply against having to pay an arm and a leg and ransom their soul to keep themselves covered and they're willing to give up some rights to attain more reasonably priced premiums.

The hard figures the survey comes up with indicate that 88 percent of the state's drivers endorse compulsory insurance covering drivers, 83 percent favor compulsory liability insurance, 77 percent favor the current requirement for compulsory personal injury protection (PIP).

• 73 percent favor compulsory auto insurance covering pedestrians, passengers and other drivers.

• 66 percent favor a no-fault system where the insured driver may collect limited damages from his own company regardless of who caused the accident.

• 60 percent favor a limitation on auto insurance benefits as a means of reducing premiums.

Insurance-oriented officials estimate as many as 50 percent of the drivers in certain areas are uninsured and it's a pretty good bet those drivers include the least financially prudent drivers in the state.

But it isn't only the ones who are willfully out to get by on the coattails of the other driver, those figures also include a sizeable number of people who depend on cars to get them back and forth from home to work and simply can't afford the rates now charged by insurance companies.

Those high rates make up a whole subject matter everybody is screaming about but all too few of our so-called leaders in a position to do something about it have the courage to face dead-on.

Our society passed the point years ago when anyone could logically refer to the automobile as a luxury. It's a necessity and more than eight out of ten drivers in the state recognize the necessity of insurance to cover ourselves in case of accidents.

If some relief isn't given in the near future, those numbers could be translated into a minor revolution at the polls this fall...and that would be one revolution we could live with.

Some education

How in the name of sanity, we wondered in this space some weeks ago, could the U.S. Department of Labor justify granting \$500,000 to the United Farm Workers Union to teach English to migrants.

Well, if what we recently heard from the Florida Farm Bureau Federation is true, the answer is that very little of that half million dollars will be spent on English instruction.

No, indeed, it'll be used for such things as: "Construct a statewide micro-wave field communications system for UFU."

"Provide leadership for UFU ranch committees."

"Pay for union hiring halls in Bakersfield, Delano and Lamont (California), which UFU calls 'outreach centers.'"

"Remodel and expand UFU's headquarter facilities at Keene, (California)."

"Finance modernization of UFU's internal communications and graphic arts program."

Oh, well then, if that's the case...we just didn't think the money ought to be wasted teaching someone English.

So what if our money is spent to strengthen Cesar Chavez? So what if our money is going to almost certainly be used in part to aid illegal aliens when unemployment figures are approaching double digit figures again?

So what? Well, we just thought it might make it easier if the USDL simply sets up a pipeline straight into a personal account for Chavez.

After all, it would be a lot simpler and a heckuva lot more honest.

"Dean," Bo Stine was saying, "do me a favor. Don't call me on a Friday at midnight about this time next year, grunt, gasp, wheeze."

"Bo, if I do (Oh my God, there's a rock in the road!), you can do me a favor, too. Hang up the phone. Don't say anything. Just hang it up. Then (gasp, agghh, that hurts!) I want you to drive out here to my trailer (Lord, how much further?), knock on the door and kick me until my rear end is up on my shoulders...Please?"

We were on the last 20-mile leg walking from Belle Glade to Pahokee and I don't care what my odometer said, it was more than any four or five miles on that leg. Bo, the county executive director for the March of Dimes was in bad shape and words can't describe the condition I was in.

Suffice it to say I am now a bonafide member of the Order of the Battered Boot and the Blister Brigade and if I ever stop hobbling it's going to surprise me.

I'm roon't for life as we used to say back home. My leg will never be the same again. They weren't much but they were all I had and I'm declaring a state of mourning for 'em.

Guess the best answer, since I can't afford a wheelchair, is to get a piece of plywood and put casters or the wheels of a pair of roller skates on it and get a coffee can full of pencils to peddle.

It may not come to that, though and I'll have to admit it was sorta fun for awhile, even if we couldn't get anybody to stop and let us cheat by riding away. No sympathy at all on that score from anyone along the way.

Guess another admission I'm gonna have to make is that

sporter of five miles Bo gave me didn't help much, either. He did make the whole 20 miles while I sorta popped out in Pahokee. So much for the gruesome twosome but there for awhile it was a threesome. Karen Hansford walked most of the way with us until she got tired of hearing the sad tales of woe about cramping legs, blistering feet and what have you and left us for the company of a couple of other young ladies just ahead of us.

One of those happened to be Judy Huggins and Bo said he had two goals for the day. The first was to finish the 20 miles and the second was to beat Judy. He made one.

It was a pitiable thing, though, to hear his calls of "Judy, slow down!" during that last 20-mile leg and see her just keep on trucking. I wasn't there to see the kill but I've been told she finally beat him out by running across the finish line when they got back to Belle Glade.

The whole thing was an educational experience, too.

I never could understand, for instance, why so many of those kids over the last five years insisted on walking in the road after they'd gotten to the sidewalk in Pahokee.

Well, I tried the sidewalks for awhile and now I know. No one who hasn't tried the walk for themselves can possibly realize what kind of obstacles can be thrown up on those sidewalks...things like acorns, dates and small rocks the size of marbles throw up barricades at every step and if that ain't enough, there was that up-and-down caused by the cut-outs into driveways.

It's bad enough to walk that far. Who wants to walk all that far uphill while they're at it?

That's one of the things that made it so tough back in 1961, the last time I'd walked anything like that distance. And ten miles in the mountains, with the last five uphill, too, I mean carrying 72 pounds of gear strapped in various places around your body, should be worth at least 15 miles on the flat.

But that was many and many a year ago and if I didn't exactly have the streamlined figure of a marathon runner, it was still many and many a pound ago, too.

And if it takes a quote from Edgar Allan Poe (a suitable horrible torture) to describe that, another quote can be used to describe the attitude for future walks, too. "Quoth the raven, 'Nevermore.'"

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1000 BOOKS were handed out Tuesday and Wednesday to students at Lake Shore Middle School as part of the RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program at the local school. Principal Kenneth Loveless presented plaques to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller in appreciation of their donation of \$1,000 which

got the program off the ground. One of the plaques will be hung in what will be renamed the Henry Miller Reading Room at the school. Dr. Loveless said this was the first of what will eventually be three distributions of the books "with no tests or work involved."

Flotilla 55 open house is scheduled

BELLE GLADE — Flotilla 55 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold an open house at the new Auxiliary building at the Belle Glade Marina on April 8 from 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend. Monday night, five new members began lessons in the "Safety to Boating Employment" course being taught. The course deals with accidents, dangers in refueling, flotation devices, and sailor's language.

Also being taught is hull construction, trailer coupling, and trailer mounting.

Next Monday, April 10, lessons three and four will be taught in the new building.

Anyone interested in the course is asked to come on out to the new building.

State inspector gives advice on fertilizer

PAHOKEE — Donald J. Orlosky is a state inspector who has been in the area for nine months, offering a service of which some may not be aware. He inspects fertilizers, seed, feed and pesticides, taking samples and sending them to a lab, to insure ingredients and processes are as claimed.

The service is available, free of charge to all consumers, particularly farmers and dealers, Orlosky said. He sees that seed is correctly dated and germinated and that fertilizer contains the ingredients specified.

For every ton of fertilizer bought, Orlosky explained, 25 cents automatically goes to the state. Some of that money then goes to providing this service.

The service insures that dealers are selling approved products. The materials should be inspected for the dealer's and manufacturer's own protection, he noted. However, it is also a service to the consumer.

With chemical spraying going on in the area, land may accidentally be sprayed. In such a case, if a question arises, the inspector will also take a sample of the affected area, send it to a residue lab in Tallahassee and report back on whether or not the spraying reached the out of bounds area.

It is a service to "educate the people" he said. Orlosky covers the area from 20 mile bend to Lake Harbor, Andytown and Port Mayaca. He can be reached after 5 p.m. weekdays at 924-7395.

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Bank of Pahokee

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Easter Coloring Contest winners are pictured



JAMIE WILLIS was the second place winner in the first through third grade division. Her winning entry was submitted to Tricia's Collection and the Haze, represented by Jo Ulm and Laura Hayes.



CINDY KEENE was the first place winner in the fourth through sixth grade division. Her entry was received by Badcock Furniture, represented by Aretha King.

The Annual Herald-Observer Easter Coloring Contest was sponsored this year by 20 local businesses, including Sears, Ben Franklin, Kim and Tim's, Bank of Belle Glade, Foodway, FinanceAmerica, Bonavia Chevrolet, Food Center, Apple Green, Timesavers, Bank of Pahokee, Gilbert's Jewellers, Tricia's and the Haze, Florida First National Bank, Lively's Carpet Sales, Wilson's Superette, the Herald and Observer, Holiday Inn, Badcock Furniture, and Earl's Service Center. Winners will receive \$15 for first place, \$10 for second, and \$5 for third.



ANGELA DAVIS won third place in the fourth through sixth division. Standing with her is John Turnbull of Florida First National Bank of Belle Glade, which received her winning entry and her mother, Dorothy Davis.



JIMBO KEENE was the third place winner in the one through third grade division. His entry was received by Food Center, represented by Charles Ward.



TAMMIE BETZNER was the second place winner in the fourth through sixth division and entered her picture at Kim and Tim's, represented by Lynn Clarke, Standing on the left is Tammie's mother, Mrs. Ella Vein Betzner.



SYLVIA (SHEBA) HERNANDEZ was the first place winner in the Herald-Observer Easter coloring contest, from the first, second and third grade division. Standing with her is Mrs. Beverly Heffernan, owner of The Apple Green in Pahokee, who sponsored the Easter picture which Sylvia colored well enough to win her a \$15 top prize.

Omicron Iota names Girl of the Year

BELLE GLADE - During a party on St. Patrick's Day at the home of Charles and Judy Schiele the Omicron Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi announced their selection

as "Girl of the Year." This year's president, Gee Gee Collinsworth was selected by her sorority sisters as the recipient of this annual honor as they celebrated the theme of the evening, "Our

Brightest Light."

Several humorous awards were presented prior to the dramatic moment when Jayne Boynton, last year's "Girl of the Year," announced the name of her successor, Mrs. Collinsworth, who in addition to being the current president and "Girl of the Year," also serves on the Beta Sigma Phi City Council, lives with her husband, Floyd, and sons, Steve and Tommy at 608 N.E. 1st Street in Belle Glade.

On March 21 Omicron Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met at the home of Sharon Wedgworth to elect the new 1978-79 officers. The new officers are president, Pennie Hughes; vice president, Judy Schiele; recording secretary, Julie Mills; extension officer, Sharon Wedgworth and city council delegate and alternate, Gina Farley and Jane Thompson.

With the election of these new officers everyone is in great anticipation for the year that lies ahead.

Profile In Business

BELLE GLADE - George Burch is the owner of Lake Hardware and Farm Supply located at 219 N. Main St. in Belle Glade.

Burch started his own business five years ago after working for a local company for eleven years. Since his name was well known in the business he had no problems getting started. All the customers that had dealt with him through the company he worked for knew of his knowledge of the work he was doing and became his regular customers. Most of the business Lake Hardware does is with farms in the area since they specialize in heavy hardware essential to farmers.

Lake Hardware has a vast supply of paints, hose supply, heavy hardware, tools, feed supply, garden supply and even boots. Among the brand names are Igloo, S&K, Black & Decker tools Drillite paints, Texas boots and many others.

The store hours are from 6:30-5:30 Monday through Friday and Saturday 6:30-12:00. A native of Panama City, Burch came to Belle Glade at the age of seven, therefore he considers it his hometown. He attended elementary and high schools here graduating in 1962.

He is married to Elenor and they



have two children Brian eight and Vickie Lynn, 12. Burch enjoys going for long rides on weekends with his family since he considers that parents should spend as much time with their children as they possibly can. He says that what seems to be one of the many problems with today's society is the lack of communication between children and parents.

Hunting is the family's favorite sport. The entire family enjoys it and they go hunting whenever they have a chance.

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Hal Unwin makes list

Hall David Unwin of 2031 Bucam Pk. Rd., Pahokee made the Dean's List at Florida State University for the winter quarter.

Approximately 2,013 students at FSU made the list, which is an honor roll of students whose grade averages are "B" or "A" for all courses taken during the quarter.

Fraser-Murray to wed



TINA MARIA FRASER

BELLE GLADE - Mr. and Mrs. James E. Fraser, Jr., of Hollywood, announce the engagement of their daughter, Tina Maria to Fredrick Murray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Murray, of Bristol, Tenn.

Miss Fraser is a graduate of Nova High School, in Fort Lauderdale, and Oral Roberts University. The groom-elect is presently employed by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office.

The couple's wedding will take place on June 3, at the Everglades Presbyterian Church, in Belle Glade.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend the ceremony.



MISS AVERILL

Miss Averill engaged

BELLE GLADE - Mr. and Mrs. Grant Ellis Averill of 615 S.E. Second Street, Belle Glade, announced this week the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Dorothy Ellis (Dolly) to Mr. William Meredith Ritchie of Cornelia, Ga.

Miss Averill is a graduate of Rosarian Academy in West Palm Beach and of Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Ala. She is presently employed by Chicopee Manufacturing Company in Cornelia, Ga. as personnel manager.

Ritchie is the son of Gilbert 'Ritchie' and the late Mrs. Ida Mae Ritchie of Salisbury, N.C. He graduated from North Carolina State University and is executive vice president and co-owner of Nu-Weave, Inc. in Lenoir, Va.

The wedding will take place July 1 in Belle Glade at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Miller-Monti date set

BELLE GLADE - Mr. and Mrs. Raymond I. Miller of Belle Glade announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Rebecca Lynn to Oscar F. Monti, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar F. Monti, also of Belle Glade. The wedding will take place at 7:30 p.m. on May 5, at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church.

She is a 1976 graduate of Glades Central High School and is now employed at the Clerk of Court office. Oscar is a 1973 graduate of Adult Education and is now employed at W.R. Grace Chemical Co. No invitations are being sent. All friends and relatives of the couple are invited to attend the wedding.

Duke-Daniel

STUART - Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Duke of Stuart, Fla., formerly of Pahokee, announce the engagement of their daughter, Joan Mellisa Duke, to Paul Foster Daniel III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Foster Daniel II, of Bartow, Fla.

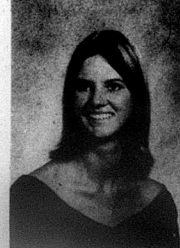
Miss Duke, a graduate of Martin County High School and Indian River Community College is employed by Dr. Don Cooper of Stuart as a dental assistant.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Bartow High School and Polk Community College and is presently employed by the Martin County Sheriff's Department.

The wedding will take place on Saturday, April 22, 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Stuart. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.



MISS DUKE



MISS MILLER

Girl of Year chosen

BELLE GLADE - Mr. and Mrs. B. Carlton White entertained the Xi Iota Alpha Chapter of the Beta Sigma Phi on March 18.

A lovely formal dinner with candle light, spring flowers and delicious food, to honor our "girl of the year."

Mrs. Naomi Conley and Mrs. Mickey Harris, co-winners, from last year, presented a clever program to honor this year's winner Mrs. Vivian Miller.

Mrs. Miller was presented the traditional tiara and beautiful silver tray, engraved with her name and year of her reign.

Those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Cameron, Dr. and Mrs. Cecil Conley, Mr. and Mrs. Marlan Chapman, Dr. and Mrs. Don Fiehs, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Green, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Harris, Mr. and Mrs. James Humphrey, Mrs. Terry Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Painter.

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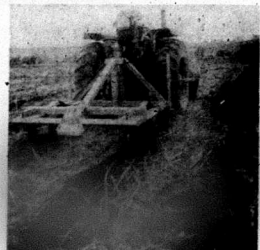
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Art show is scheduled in Pahokee

PAHOKEE - Mrs. Marji Laks of Pahokee has just finished a successful art show at the Clewiston Library and will be presenting another art show at the Pahokee Public library starting Sunday, April 9th, lasting until the end of April. A special opening day will be held Sunday from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The exhibit may also be seen during the regular business hours of the library, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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6.98%	30 Months	\$1,000	6.75%
6.72%	12 Months	\$1,000	6.50%
5.39%	Passbook	—	5.25%

*By Federal Regulation, a substantial interest penalty is required for early withdrawal from any savings certificate. Accounts of \$100,000 or more are negotiable as to rates and terms. Interest compounded daily. Other savings plans available.

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BELLE GLADE 1516 S.W. Avenue E (Glades Plaza) Belle Glade, Fla. 33435

WORTH PLAZA 7175 Lake Worth Road (North Plaza Center) Lake Worth, Fla. 33463





STUDENT NEWSCASTERS Ricky Tillman, Fanny Bennett and Elaine Smith (seated, left to right) prepare themselves for their

first news show as Johnson and Mrs. Cielez confer.

School news show on the air

BELLE GLADE - A group of Lake Shore Middle School students went on the air Tuesday morning in the first of what could become a series of continuing news shows transmitted from the West Area ITV center.

The students were taken to the center Tuesday by Media Specialist Laura Cielez after their interest was aroused two weeks ago when Paul Johnson, the West Area broadcast engineer and media specialist, attended a workshop at Lake Shore.

Mrs. Cielez said all the eight students taking part in their broadcast Tuesday already work on the school newspaper and Ricky Tillman who anchored the newscast, said he is now interested in getting into broadcast journalism.

"That's what I hope to accomplish," she said. "It was designed to get their interest and I hope some will be permanently interested. Now they see what's involved."

Mrs. Cielez said this won't be the last time students from Lake Shore take part in newscasts but she said some students from Glades Central are supposed to get their chance two weeks from now.

She had taken the students to the ITV center Friday to get them acquainted with what goes into a newscast and they had a practice period just before they were taped.

The script, which included stories on a RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program at the school and National Library Week, were

written by Michael Dinken, another media specialist at Lake Shore.

Next time, however, she said the students will be expected to write their own script.

Students taking part in the news show, which was later broadcast to the school so they and others could

see it, included Tillman, Fanny Bennett, Elaine Smith, Andreas Marrero, Ann Lynn, Kim Lealand, Latham Hightower and Maria Rico. Hightower and Rico are in the seventh grade. The rest are eighth graders.

Ceramics course offered

BELLE GLADE - A basic course in ceramic techniques will be offered each Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m., beginning April 12, at Palm Beach Junior College-Glades. Registration for the course, in which students will produce flower pots, vases and pots for macrame hangers, will last through the

starting date. There will be a \$15 registration fee and a \$20 supply fee.

The course will last for five weeks with 15 hours of instruction and 1.5 continuing education units.

Area Births

BELLE GLADE - The following parents announce the births of babies born at Glades General Hospital in Belle Glade.

Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Javier Salazar, a daughter, Melissa, born March 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Claudio Saucedo, Sr. of South Bay, a son, Claudio Jr., born March 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Beharry of South Bay, a daughter, Malini Vinita, born March 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Salim Zayyad, a son, Ali Salim, born March 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Levon McCrary, a son, Darren Dennard, born March 28.

Water line changes to be made

SOUTH BAY - Water lines leading from city mains to approximately 1,000 homes, and the meters measuring the flow of water into those homes, are expected to be changed in the near future to connect to the fronts instead of the backs of residences.

The City Commission during its regular meeting Tuesday evening directed City Attorney James Gann to draw up agreements which residents will be asked to sign which would permit the changes to be made in the service lines and meters.

City utilities Director Lomax Harrelle said the project will be done with Community Development funds at no cost to the homeowners and no direct cost to the city.

He said the move was recommended by Barker, Osha and Anderson because the service lines, now leading to the backs of homes in the city, are largely inaccessible, as are the meters. Harrelle said many homeowners have planted shrubbery and erected fences over the service lines, making it hard for city meter readers to get to the meters.

He said city crews should start contacting homeowners in the near future to get their permission to have the work done on their property.

Harrelle also had his say in another area when two letters from CETA were read by City Clerk Virginia Walker, one asking if the city wants to take part in a summer employment program and another which apparently informed the city it could no longer terminate employees hired under the CETA program.

The language in the second letter wasn't clear enough for the

commissioners to completely understand it but the commissioners, at the motion of Commissioner Woodrow "Woody" O'Neal, tabled action on either letter until that language is clarified.

There is currently authorization for seven CEIA employees in Harrelle's department, he said, and he is actually working five such employees.

"I'm having enough trouble as it is," he said, "getting some of those workers to show up every day. I'll lose the right to terminate them if I lose all control over them and I'd

just as soon relinquish all of them."

In other action, the commission: • Approved for advertisement an ordinance setting rates to be charged non-residents when the City Fire Department voluntarily answers calls outside the city limits.

• Granted a variance to developer Tim Rumph to build a home on Southwest 11th Avenue which doesn't have the required amount of floor space for the zoning at the location.

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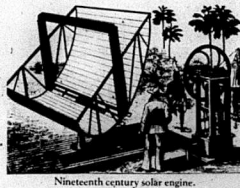
Unfortunately, we're not. For centuries, man has been dealing with the problem of harnessing the sun's energy. Today we do have the technology to produce electricity from solar energy. But it's still not possible to do this at a cost affordable to our customers.

The cost of producing electricity from the sun is over 10 times the cost of producing it from oil, coal or nuclear energy.

And the best scientific estimates predict this even 20 years from now the United States will be able to obtain no more than 5% of our electrical energy from the sun.

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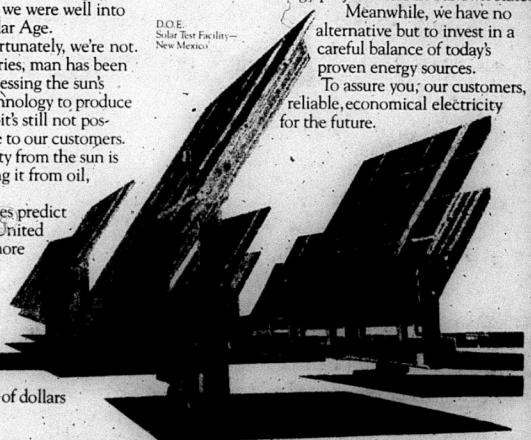
Test Facility in New Mexico. We're also working on a number of solar energy projects here in our own state.

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Methodist homecoming is Sunday, program set

BELLE GLADE—The program and entertainment plans for the April 9 Homecoming of Belle Glade Community United Methodist Church, the Rev. Guldmar J. Blair, pastor, have been finalized according to Mrs. Nancy Carpenter and Mrs. Virginia Lindrose, co-chairmen of the occasion.

Mrs. Karen Corbin and Miss Margaret West are co-chairmen of the afternoon activities which are to take place at 2 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Following the fellowship covered-dish dinner to be served in Jameson Hall at 12:30 p.m. with Mrs. Sandra Dulany and Mrs. Eliska Hooker in charge.

The Rev. Randall Parsons of Apopka, a former pastor, will preach at the 11 a.m. worship service. The choir will present special music.

Participating in the afternoon celebration will be Milton Carpenter, Byron Smith, Lee Cranford and Kenneth Lutz, vocal quartet; Gloria John Smith and Karen Corbin, piano and organ duo; Marie Cranford, French horn solo; Carol Schmidt and Rachael Hollingsworth, vocal duo; Randall and Agnes Parsons, vocal duo; "Jeanie and Nora," popular vocalists of the East Coast area, vocal numbers. The Youth, Elementary and Pre-School choirs will sing.

A historical narrative of the church will be given by John A. Dulany, followed by a "I Remember When" participation by the

congregation. Lee Cranford will be master of ceremonies.

A table of momentos will be available with Mrs. Patty Berryhill in charge. Numerous pictures, newspaper clippings, brochures, etc. depicting various phases of 57 years of the church growth and activities have been arranged by

Mrs. Miriam Dulany, to be viewed in the narthex. Mrs. Edith Van Landingham and Mrs. Eliska Hooker are in charge of church decorations.

A cordial invitation is extended to all members and friends of the church.

Christian Comments

Consider man's dilemma. His world is out of joint. Men are at odds with one another, filled with hatred, confusion and prejudice. This problem affects every area of life. We see it between neighbors. Sometime back, I saw a house for sale, with this addenda to the for sale sign — "Colored people preferred." These people were not being magnanimous in the open housing issue; rather, they were trying to reap revenge on the next door neighbors whom they did not like.

This problem is seen in many homes across our land and in this community. The highest human happiness can be turned into hell on earth because of the enmity between marriage partners, and between parents and children. The same problem finds expression among nations. Diplomacy was recently depicted in a cartoon, which showed a man patting a dog on the head with one hand saying "nice doggy," while the dog swallowed his other hand to the elbow.

Enmity between man and man is but a symptom of the deeper ailment which is our basic estrangement between man and God. The scriptures say that we are aliens and strangers, and that we are at enmity with God. James Stewart says, "It is both the glory and doom of man, that he has been made for fellowship with God." It is man's glory because this means he has the capability of becoming a child of God; and it is his doom, for it means that if he does not choose aright, he can be eternally separated and lost from God.

Man is helpless to save himself from this dilemma. Why doesn't someone do something? God has!

You must decide. God makes no robots. He paid us the compliment of giving us the privilege of choice between good and evil. You may choose to live without Him in this life. Then you must also live without Him in the next. Don't run the risk of ruin!

Conclusion: Notice that verse 19 tells us what God has done: He has sent Christ. (The incarnation) Verse 18 tells us what the church does: It preaches Christ. (Evangelization)

Verse 20 tells what you must do: Believe on Christ. (Invitation) The result of this belief will be peace, marvelous, exhilarating; more exciting than you ever dreamed could exist.

The result will be joy, ecstatic and complete, beyond the fondest imagination.



By Bill Anderson
Pastor, First Baptist Church
South Bay

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SA-HERALD—OBSERVER, Thurs., April 8, 1978



AFTER THE PARTY IS OVER



The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

Continued on p. 2

Have you ever felt like this little girl after a big, exciting day at the Fair, or a party? You know how you feel — excited, exhausted; but you feel good, too. Sometimes you just want to lie down and think about it. But like the little one in this picture you, also, are too tired to remove your party hat or your shoes.

Sometimes it is delightful just to lie down and think of something good and wonderful and happy. It is good just to be still and sort of day-dream about what has happened.

There are other times in our lives when we need to achieve a sense of quietness and think of God. The Psalmist says, "Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still." Psalm 4:4. God says in Psalms 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God."

We invite you to attend church and sense the still, quiet holiness that is God's presence in the midst of the congregation.

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KATHERINE PRICE Week was proclaimed proclamation to Katherine Price Foundation for April 9-16 Tuesday by Belle Glade Mayor Tom Altman (far right), who presented the

Katherine Price Week is set

BELLE GLADE — Mayor Tom Altman and members of the Katherine Price Foundation took advantage Tuesday of a visit home by Mrs. Price to proclaim next week as Katherine Price Week, in recognition of her work over the past 30 years as a "good Samaritan."

Altman urged the citizens of Belle Glade and the surrounding areas to give their full support to the Foundation, which was organized in 1976 to carry on Mrs. Price's work.

Foundation President John Cowart said the Foundation also took advantage of Mrs. Price's visit from Winter Garden, where she has lived recently with her daughter, to close the contract to buy Mrs. Price's home on US441 north

of town.

"Mrs. Price," Cowart said, "is a true pioneer of the Glades and has been using her home as a warehouse to collect clothing, furniture, bedding, kitchenware and food to help those in need for over 30 years but due to poor health, she is unable to continue this service to the needy alone."

The foundation is a private, non-profit corporation with more than 100 local citizen members who elect their own board of directors, who meet monthly. It is a home-grown and home-owned organization and serves only Glades area citizens.

The Foundation has received a tax-exempt status for charitable deductions by the IRS and has received more than \$20,000 in grants, gifts and membership dues which is being used to purchase Mrs. Price's home for a permanent headquarters.

The Foundation has use of the building and its store of goods. Volunteers work in shifts to receive, sort and distribute items needed. Referrals are made from local churches, social and law enforcement agencies.

The Glades Office of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department is helping by administering emergency food during after business hours. Families may now receive emergency aid without undue delays.

"Hopes are high," Cowart said, "for the continued growth of the Katherine Price Foundation. Long range plans call for building emergency overnight shelter for families on the property. A resident coordinator will be employed to lead volunteers in serving needs."

Is USDL in UFW coverup?

GAINESVILLE — U.S. Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall is apparently involved in a cover-up that would give \$500,000 to the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) for — among other things — a two-way radio communications network and headquarters remodeling, says a spokesman for Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF).

The cover-up, according to Al French, director of labor relations for FFBF, involves a \$500,000 grant announced by the Labor Department as having been made in January to Cesar Chavez' UFW under funding from the Department of Labor-administered Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

"The department released a photo to the media of Marshall and Chavez' smilingly signing the CETA grant, which would supposedly pay UFW to teach English to farm workers," says French.

When American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) attorneys asked to see a copy of the grant application and contract, the Department of Labor would not respond, French says. Finally, when AFBF attorneys threatened suit under the Freedom of Information Act, the Labor Department said there had been a mistake and no grant had actually been made.

French says the whole matter is a jumbled mess.

"If there never was a grant, why was a story and photo released by the department, and why did I, on a recent trip to California, hear Paul Mayrand, a CETA farm

worker program director, acknowledge and attempt to defend the grant at a meeting with farm leaders a month after the grant was announced?"

French says the grant application AFBF attorneys finally wrangled out of the Department of Labor shows a horrible misuse of

public funds, with only a very small part of the total grant related to English language training.

Among things involved in the grant are:

- Construct a statewide microwave field communications system for UFW.

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Sale Days: April 6-22

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SHORT

SEWING

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Three are listed on honor roll

TALLAHASSEE — Three Belle Glade students earned places on the honor roll at Florida State University here for the winter quarter, according to an announcement made this week.

Named to the honors list were Timothy J. Prescott, son of Sara Prescott of 101 S.E. Fourth St. N.; Viola Sheely of 300 N.W. 11th St. #38 and Gregory J. Youchock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Youchock of 800 S.W. 16th St.

They were among approximately 2,013 students at the university to be named to the Dean's List.

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Thurs., April 6, 1978

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Gators are now 10-0 going into second half baseball

The Glades Day Gators baseball team is now 10-0 and there appears to be little standing in the way of a district victory.

On March 21 they defeated Boca Academy 8-1 with Tommy Duda, the winning pitcher, and Jose Cano, the top batter, two of three with two RBIs.

Jupiter Christian was next, beaten 4-3 with the winning pitcher relief man Kenny Buckner, who was also the leading hitter going three for three with one triple.

Kings Academy fell 4-2 on March 25 with Buckner again the

winning pitcher and Buckner and Steve Richie the top hitters.

On March 28 LaBelle got more than a taste of the Gators as they were wiped out 15-3. Tommy Duda was the winning pitcher and Quique Echave the leading batter, two for three with four RBIs.

Summit was next on March 31, falling 4-2 with Mark Foster the winning pitcher, who retired 16 batters in a row and struck out nine.

Jose Cano led the batting with three hits for his four times up. Christian Day fell 18-1 with Ja-

son Shelton pitching and batting three for three. Quique Echave was two for two as was Pedro Rodriguez and Kenny Buckner drove in three with a homerun.

Tuesday the Gators were to play Indian River with Tommy Duda the starting pitcher.

The leading batter halfway through the season is Benton Tyson, whose average is .775 as a pinch hitter. He is followed by Buckner with .545, Echave .406, Cano .394, Richie .346, Rodriguez .292 and Tommy Duda .286.



CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL girls softball team, front row: Angel Alava, Doris Acree, Judy Clayton, Lisa Lewis, Michele Conway, Rossanna Alvarez, Gina Williams, Coach Bowser; bottom row, Judi Curtis, Linda Groves, Tammy Reeves, Sherri Mann, Joni Davis and Lisa Acree.

Softball team improves record

The Glades Day girl's softball team improved their record to 3-4 following work on the pitching and outfielding over the past couple of weeks.

Coach Mandy Perez said Jane Priest had become the team's most improved player. He noted Jane made ten errors in her left field position the first few games, but in the last four has made only one and become a team leader.

On March 14, the team lost to Lake Worth Christian 24-8 after first gaining an eight-run lead in the first three innings.

Part of the problem, said Perez, was the pitching, which found 17 opponents walking. After working on the pitching, they lost to Indian River Academy 11-1 with the game being called in the fifth inning. Five starters were out for the district band concert but a bright spot was Terri Greasinger, who began to inspire the team.

The tables were turned March 23 when Jupiter Christian fell to the Gators 18-8. Marie Cranford was outstanding with the bat and pitcher Mimi Fowler struck out two, walked four, and went three for four at the plate.

One March 25, the team played its re-match with Kings Academy and lost 17-4. "It was an off day,"

said Perez, with the team committing 12 errors.

Then on March 31, Summit Christian fell 24-2 with Kelly Teets going four for four, including a homerun and two triples and Bobbie Lou Markham scoring four runs.

On April Fool's Day, Christian Day lost to the Gators 13-4. Glades Day led by 13 runs going into the

top of the seventh, but Christian Day rallied for four.

Donna Fowler got four runs, Denise Morgan went two for four and Mimi Fowler pitched her best game ever, according to Perez.

This was the widest margin of victory ever over Christian Day for the Gators.

Tuesday, the team was to play Indian River away.



THE CRUSADERS of the Christian Day School Drill Team came back winners after attending the Jamboree Baton contest held at Lake Worth High School. The winners are Elize Stiles, second place military, fifth place basic; Tammy Vickers, fourth place basic; Dawn Frazier, third place beauty,

third place basic; Charity Lassiter fourth place beauty; Courtney Corbin fifth place basic; Michal Corbin fifth place military. Other winners are Deedra Lynn second place beauty, fourth place fancy stunt and third place military; Janet Campbell first place military and Janet Barnwell sixth place basic.

Glades Day School

Girl netters continue to win

BELLE GLADE—The Glades Day girl's tennis team added three more victories to their growing list in action over the past week and the boys' racked up three more losses.

On March 22 the girls soundly defeated Boca Raton Academy 6-1 with singles victories coming from Beau Wigley, Susan Stevens and Denise, Monica and Cheryl Hooker.

Evelyn Gaylis and Nancy Creech lost their double match but Shelly Sniffer and Peggy Carpenter won theirs for the lopsided victory.

The boys lost 1-6 with their only victory a Mike Stevens and Philip Dulany doubles win.

On March 30 the teams took on Jupiter and won 5-2 with Beau, Denise, Monica and Cheryl winning their singles matches and Susie losing to her opponent. Beau and Susie teamed for one doubles win but Shelley and Nancy lost theirs.

Philip Dulany won by default for the boys only match win. March 31 they took on Kings Academy and again won 5-2 with

Beau, Denise, Monica and Cheryl winning singles and Susie losing to the Number 10 girl in the State.

Susie and Beau lost their doubles match but Denise and Monica won. The boys lost 0-7.

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For more information contact:

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Glades Central boys capture fastest time

The Glades Central track team's mile relay squad won its fastest time this year Monday at the Atlantic Invitational but a lane violation disqualified the 3:32 time and the 'ten points' earned by coming in first, dropping the overall track team from third to fifth place in the ten-school meet.

Coach Willie MacDonald said relay team member Don Andrews cut in front of a Pahokee runner slightly too close, bumping him and calling down the disqualification.

Another team member, Freddie Garrett, also made his best effort for the year in the discus throw, bringing in the only first place

points for the Raiders with a throw of 154'4".

Another best effort for the year netted only a second place win for Bobby Brereton in the 880 yard run, however, as he ran the course in 2:03, followed in by James Davis, who picked up a sixth place win in 2:10.

Allen Johnson also won second place in the 440 yard run, coming in 51.8 seconds after the starting time. Willie Tyler won fourth place

in that event with a time of 52.5. The mile medley relay team also posted its best time of the year, coming in second in 3:45.2. The 440 relay team was third with a time of 45.1.

William Johnson won third place in the 330 intermediate hurdles with a time of 42.9 seconds, followed by teammate Michael Russell, who came in fifth with a 44.1 time.

William Johnson also scored

fifth in the 120 high hurdles in 16 seconds while Robert O'Neal won fifth place in the two mile run in 10:37.

Joe Byrd came in sixth in the long jump with a leap of 20'1" and Charles Miller won a sixth place in the shotput with a heave of 44'4". Michael Collier was sixth in the high jump, with a 6'2" effort while David Jones was seventh with a 5'0" leap.

Raiders make state honor roll

BELLE GLADE—Four individuals and two teams on the Glades Central track and field team made the Florida Class AAA Honor Roll's second edition, scoring high enough in their individual events to be state contenders.

The Mar. 13-27 Honor Roll listed Michael Russell for his time of 42.0 seconds in the 330 yard intermediate hurdles, Bernard Walker for his 10.0 100-yard dash time, Freddie Garrett for his 139 foot discus throw and Michael Collier again for his 6'0" high jump effort.

The mile medley relay team, made up of Willie Tyler, Don Andrews, Byrd and Allen Johnson, made the roll with a time of 3:38.1.

Thin as a come in second

The mile relay team won the only first place Friday when the Glades Central track team took part in the North Shore Invitational Track Meet but the Raiders won second place in the tournament by racking up 91 "show" points in the eight-team competition.

Willie Tyler, Joe Byrd, Don Andrews and Allen Johnson teamed up to win the mile relay in 3:38 for the Raiders' only first place in the meet. Glades Central picked up eight second-places, however, in the competition.

Robert O'Neal was second in the two mile run with a time of 10:39. Freddie Garrett threw the discus 152'4" for second place in that event. The Raiders also placed second in the mile medley relay in 3:52.7 and the 440 yard relay in 44.5 seconds.

Glades Central also picked up a number of points in the 440 yard dash with Allen Johnson placing second in 51.3. Willie Tyler earning fourth place in 52.9. Don Andrews winning fifth place in 53.6 and Demetrius Rolle coming in sixth place with a time of 53.9 seconds.

In the 330 yard, intermediate hurdles, Michael Russell came in second with a time of 42.3 seconds and William Johnson was third with 42.9 seconds. Bernard Walker placed second in the 220 yard dash with 23.9 seconds and Archie Godfrey came in fourth in 24 seconds.

Bobby Brereton came in second in the 880 yard run in 2:05.2 and James Henry was sixth in 2:18.2. In the long jump, Michael Collier placed fourth with a leap of 20'1" while Lined West was fifth with 20'1" and Joe Byrd was sixth with 20 foot effort.

Robert O'Neal placed fourth in the mile run with a time of 4:50.9. Charles Miller was fourth in the shotput with a heave of 44'4" and Freddie Garrett was fifth with 43'2". In the high jump, Michael Collier was fourth with a 5'8" effort.

Willie Johnson placed fifth in the 120 high hurdles in 16.8 seconds and Bernard Walker placed fifth in the 100 yard dash with a time of 10.4 seconds while Archie Godfrey finished sixth in 10.5.



The Hawaiian alphabet has only 12 letters.

Martha E. Valiant, M.D., F.A.A.P. announces the opening of her office the Clewiston Children's Clinic, for the practice of General Pediatrics on the third of April, nineteen hundred seventy-eight. Location: Northbound side of Highway 27 0.6 miles west of Clewiston city limits. Mailing Address: Route 2, Box 149-C Clewiston, Florida 33440 Telephone: (813) 983-8489

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(SR 90 on your left going into West Palm Beach)
For App't. Call 305-683-5164



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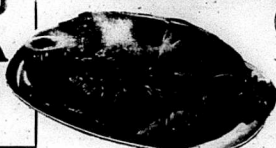
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7a.m.-7p.m.
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Sun. 8a.m.-4p.m.

HEAVY WESTERN BONE IN
FULL CUT
ROUND
STEAK
\$1.59 LB.



APRIL SHOWER of SAVINGS



Fresh Whole
Fryers
49¢ lb.

SKINNED & DEVEINED, SLICED
BEEF LIVER 79¢ LB.

HEAVY WESTERN BONELESS
BOTTOM ROUND ROAST \$1.69 LB.

Palm River
SLICED BACON \$1.49 VAC-PACK 1 LB. PKG.

DAIRY DELIGHTS
1/2 LB. FAT
SHURFRESH MILK \$1.59

PARKAY 59¢

ALLIANCE BAKERY
Butterflake Biscuits 3 for 99¢
HEALTHY LIGHT & LIME
Cottage Cheese 59¢

CLIP 'N' SAVE HERE

COFFEE \$2.59

BISQUICK 39¢

TRIX 79¢

HAIR SPRAY \$1.59

CLOSE-UP 79¢

GALA TOWELS 49¢

POTATOES 99¢

APPLE SAUCE 99¢

APPLE JUICE 99¢

APPLE SAUCE 99¢

APPLE JUICE 99¢

APPLE SAUCE 99¢

APPLE JUICE 99¢

APPLE SAUCE 99¢

APPLE JUICE 99¢

Smoked
Hams half or whole 99¢ lb.

HEAVY WESTERN TOP
ROUND STEAK \$1.89 LB.

Beef
Tripe 69¢ lb.

HEAVY WESTERN BONELESS
RUMP ROAST \$1.79 LB.

HEAVY WESTERN SLOVENLY
Roast \$1.59 LB.
HEAVY WESTERN SLOVENLY
Steak \$1.69 LB.

UNSWEETENED
HAWAIIAN PUNCH 149¢

SAUCE 5/51
MAYO 1/49
TOMATO PASTE 3/51
PEELED TOMATOES 3/51
TOMATO PUREE 7/59
TOMATO JUICE 7/59

99¢

PLAIN OR SELF-RISING
MARTHA WHITE FLOUR 69¢

TELETYPE
TEA BAGS 99¢

MACARONI & CHEESE
KRAFT DINNER 3/89¢

Kraft Dressing 49¢
White Sauce 99¢
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Clam Chowder 79¢
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U.S. NO. 1
POTATOES 99¢
U.S. NO. 1
D'Anjou Pears 8/99¢
Green Cabbage 1/15¢
Valencia Oranges 8/69¢
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BAGS 5-51
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NUTWOOD FRAMES
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INSTANT TEA 1/79

FRIGERIES ASSORTED CANNED
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3-LB.
TRASH BAGS 99¢

6-1/2" LABEL FABRIC
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U.S. No. 1

White Potatoes

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Detergent

Gain

84 oz.
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Catsup 59¢

32 oz. btl.

Limit 1 with 7.00 order
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Shurfine

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Corn Meal Mix 99¢

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U.S. Choice Sirloin Tip

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Ground Chuck ... lb. \$1.09

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Turkey Breast ... lb. \$1.29

Corn King

Franks 1 lb. pkg. 99¢

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Bologna 16 oz. pkg. 89¢



produce

Tender Green

Cabbage lb. 15¢

California

Avocados ea. 39¢

Cello

Carrots 2 bags 29¢

Pascal

Celery stalk 29¢

California Navel

Oranges 6/69¢

California Fancy

Lemons 10/59¢

Grade "A"

Eggs

69¢
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Extra Large

Wesson

48 oz.
btl. Oil \$1.49

Limit 1 with 7.00 order
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Paper
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Shurfine

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16 oz. cans \$1.00

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Shurfine 6 oz. can

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Whole Okra 49¢

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Potatoes w/cheese 49¢

Swanson's Chicken 8 oz. pkg.

Pot Pies 3/\$1.00

Sara Lee 10 oz. pkg.

Coconut Cake 99¢



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Rich Whip 9 oz. can

Topping 59¢

Land-O-Lake Sliced American

Cheese 12 oz. 99¢

Blue donnet

Oleo lb. 49¢

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TO LIMIT QUANTITIES
& TO CORRECT
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Sliced Bacon



\$1.49
lb.

U.S. Choice
Full Cut Boneless

Round
Steak

\$1.69
lb.

Fresh Pork

Picnic
Roast 79¢
lb.



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Mayonnaise

qt.

89¢

Limit 1 with 7.00 order
or more excl. cigs.

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Shortening \$1.49

3 lb. can



Green Giant 17 oz. can

Cream Corn 3/89¢

Mueller's 16 oz. box

Elbow Macaroni 39¢

Bumble Bee 6 1/2 oz. can

Chunk Tuna 59¢

Carnation 16 oz. jar

Coffee Mate \$1.29

Aunt Jemima 32 oz. box

Pancake Flour 69¢

Purina 25 lb. bag

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Snowy 16 oz. box

Bleach 79¢

Kleenex 280 ct. box

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Limit 3 cans with 7.00 order or more excl. cigs.

Nehi & R.C. Cola

Drinks 12 oz. cans 6/\$1.29

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Cars/Trucks For Sale

FOR SALE: 1974 Toyota Celica. Take over payments. Call 996 3097 before 4:30 p.m. bgh A 6p

FOR SALE: 1966 Volkswagen Van. Recent valve job, good engine. Minor front damage. \$275. 996 3264. bgh A 6p

FOR SALE: 1974 Ford Mustang Ghia. Excellent condition. Call 996 8783 after 5 p.m. bgh A 6p

FOR SALE: 72 Gran Torino. 2 door, console bucket seats, instrumentation group, AM/FM stereo. Good running condition. \$550 or best offer. Call 996 6977 evenings. bgh A 6s

FOR SALE: 1973 Pinto Station Wagon. Air conditioned. Call 996 2918. bgh A 6p

FOR SALE: 1974 4 dr Outlass Supreme. Good condition. Located. Must sell. Call Ann. 996 2056 between 12:00 and 5:00. bgh A 6p

Public Notice

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Help Wanted

DRIVERS: diesel semi, experience, experienced only need apply. Year round & good pay, call 996 2909. bgh A 6c

ROUTE SALESMAN: Year round work, 5 day week. Salary in excess of \$250 per week. Must have Fla. chauffeur's license. Good fringe benefits. Apply at 916 NW 12th St., Belle Glade. bgh A 6c

WANTED: Head custodian. Salary \$8,800 range plus medical and insurance. Must be energetic and dependable. Call Jack Redding, Pahokee H.S. for interview, 924 5241. bgh A 12c

INSURANCE call: Bruce Brown 1 W. Ave. A Belle Glade Phone 996-6004

WANTED: Clerk typist, small loan company. Salary negotiable. Must type and must be bookable. For appl. Call 924 2312. bgh A 13c

WANTED: Guards, guardettes and night watchmen. Must have transportation. Send reply to Guards, P.O. Box 760, Belle Glade, FL 33430. bgh A 6p

ROUTE TRADREE: year round work, good fringe benefits. Chance for advancement. Apply at 916 NW 12th St. Belle Glade. bgh A 6c

EMERGENCY ROOM clerk for weekends, Sat. & Sun. 4:00 p.m. to 12 midnight. Prefer background in credit work. Must be an accomplished typist. All hospital benefits. Apply in person to personnel manager Glades General Hospital, 1201 S. Main St., Hours 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mon. Fri. Equal Opportunity Employer. bgh A 6c

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Do a vigorous expansion program. A major company is energizing a dynamic division in this area. This expansion offers an outstanding opportunity for an outgoing, responsible individual who is seeking a career in management. This career offers advancement, unlimited earning potential, personal satisfaction and financial security. Experience in dealing with the public desired. Required training will be provided. Contact E. Turner, Jr., Lauderdale, (305) 583-6428.

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Business opening in this area selling leading line of automotive tools and equipment. Our Corp. has been in business over 50 yrs. Good profit assured from the start, field manager will train and work with you. Must be over 21. List of references required. This position offers unlimited opportunity and security regardless of business conditions you can sell. For complete information and arrangements for complete personal interview. Contact **Elton Gaffney, Field Mgr. 813/833-3628 or reply by letter to: Elton Gaffney, P.O. Box 507, Frostproof, FL 33843.**

Thus., April 6, 1978, EVERGLADES

HOMECRONT-7B

the City Clerk and available for inspection, and copies thereof may be obtained upon application to said office. All bids must be accompanied by a certified statement indicating that the bid items meet or exceed the City's specifications. All bids shall be in sealed envelopes addressed to the City Manager, City of Belle Glade, City Hall, Belle Glade Municipal Complex, Belle Glade, Florida 33430, and plainly marked on the outside: BID NO. 10-78. Two new Truck bodies with hoists and pumps, 4/13-78. The City Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to accept any bid or combination of bids which in its sole and absolute judgment will best serve the public interest. **CITY OF BELLE GLADE** June H. Boglioli City Clerk

BGH-78-72 March 30, April 6, 1978

INVITATION TO BID

SEALED BIDS for the furnishing of Two (2) new Trucks for Public Works Department will be received by the City of Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, Florida, in Conference Room A of the City Hall in the Belle Glade Municipal Complex until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 1978 at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. Specifications are on file in the office of the City Clerk and available for inspection, and copies thereof may be obtained upon application to said office. All bids must be accompanied by a certified statement indicating that the bid items meet or exceed the City's specifications. All bids shall be in sealed envelopes addressed to the City Manager, City of Belle Glade, City Hall, Belle Glade Municipal Complex, Belle Glade, Florida 33430, and plainly marked on the outside: BID NO. 11-78. Two new Trucks for Public Works Department, 4/13-78. The City Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to accept any bid or combination of bids which in its sole and absolute judgment will best serve the public interest. **CITY OF BELLE GLADE** June H. Boglioli City Clerk

BGH-78-73 March 30, April 6, 1978

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Appliances

Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Home appliances, installed home improvements, sales & service.
Glades Plaza 996-3391

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Dry Cleaning
all materials
We now handle suede & leather goods. We also do alterations and zippers

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Seminole Auto Parts
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South Bay Ph. 996-1001

Drugs

Wallis Pharmacy
Service-quality-economy
Belle Glade 996-2050
South Bay 996-7631

Dan Wallis - Owner

Equipment

Everglades Equipment Company
SR 715
Sales & Service
996-6531

Glades Gas

S.W. Ave. A
Belle Glade
996-3046

Liquors

Golden Glades Liquors

1533 NW Ave. L
Belle Glade
'Glades Premium Spirit Dealers'

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HELP WANTED: Man or woman wanted for morning paper route. Pahokee Canal Point vicinity. Above average earnings, short hours. Call Palm Beach Post 996-6731. A 13c

CARRIERS NEEDED: After noon route in Belle Glade and South Bay areas. Must be dependable and have transportation. Above average earnings. Apply Palm Beach Post times. bgh A 6p

LEGAL NOTICE. SEALED BIDS for the furnishing of Two (2) new Truck bodies with hoists and pumps will be received by the City of Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, Florida, in Conference Room A of the City Hall in the Belle Glade Municipal Complex until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 1978 at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. Specifications are on file in the office of

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Main Street
Prices Good:
Thurs., April 6
thru Mon.
April 10

HEAVY WESTERN
BONE IN
FULL CUT
**ROUND
STEAK**
\$1.59
LB.

APRIL SHOWER of SAVINGS



Heavy Western
Sirloin Tip
Roast
\$1.49
lb.



"Cooking Good"
Grade A Fresh Whole
Fryers
49¢
LB.

SKINNED & DEVEINED, SLICED
**BEEF
LIVER** **79¢**
LB.

HEAVY WESTERN BONELESS
**BOTTOM
ROUND
ROAST** **\$1.59**
LB.

SHURFRESH
**SLICED
BACON** **\$1.29**
VAC-PACK
1 LB.
PKG.

Lykes Reg or Beef
1 lb Pkg
Bologna **99¢**
Lykes Reg or Beef
12 oz pkg
Wieners **99¢**
Sunnyland Fresh
Pork Breakfast
Links 20 oz pkg **\$1.59**

Heavy Western
Sirloin Tip
Steak **\$1.59**
lb.

Shurfresh
Fresh
Sausage **79¢**
roll

Heavy Western
Top Round
Steak **\$1.79**
lb.

Assorted
Pork Chops
\$1.29
lb.

R.C.
Cola 64 oz
No Return
Glass **79¢**



8 pk
16 oz
btl.
89¢
PLUS
DEPOSIT

OSCAR MAYER ALL MEAT WIENERS OR
PURE BEEF
FRANKS 1 LB.
PKG. **\$1.09**



OSCAR MAYER ALL MEAT OR PURE
Beef Bologna 8oz.
PKG. **79¢**

OSCAR MAYER REG. OR THICK
**SLICED
BACON** 1 LB.
PKG. **\$1.99**

OSCAR MAYER ALL MEAT, PURE BEEF
THICK 12oz.
Sliced Bologna OR THIN PKG. **\$1.19**

FROZEN FOODS
Banquet Frozen
Dinners
• Chicken • Turkey
• Chopped Beef

2 11
oz
pkgs **99¢**
Banquet Fried
Chicken
\$1.89
2 lb
pkg

Rosey Red
**HAWAIIAN
PUNCH** 12oz. CAN **49¢**



Hunts Tomato
Sauce 5 8 oz
cans **\$1**

Hunts Tomato
Paste 4 6 oz
cans **\$1**

Hunts
**Wesson
Oil** 38
oz
btl **\$1.19**
Limit 1 with \$5 or more order

MAYO'
NAISE 12oz. JAR **99¢**
LIMIT 1 WITH \$5.00 OR MORE
FOOD ORDER EXCL. CIGS

DAIRY SPECIALS
Miracle Bowl
Margarine
1 lb
bowl **59¢**

Martha White
Plain or Self Rising
Flour
5 lb.
bag **59¢**
Limit 1 with \$5 or more order

Plochman 10%
Squeeze oz.
plst. **Mustard** **25¢**

TETLEY
TEA
BAGS 48CT. PKG. **89¢**

MACARONI & CHEESE
7/4oz.
PKG. **KRAFT
DINNER** **3/89¢**

Kraft
Thousand Island **2/99¢**
Dressing

SHURFRESH SWEETENED OR UNSWEETENED
**GRAPEFRUIT
JUICE** 2 46 oz.
CAN **\$1**

Campbell Chicken
**Noodle
Soup** 5 10%
oz.
cans **\$1**

Pillsbury Big Country
Buttermilk
Biscuits
3 12
oz
size **99¢**

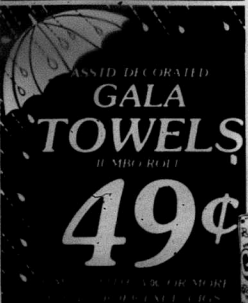
Martha White 7 1/2 oz. pkg.
**Corn
Muffin Mix** **15¢**

Shurfresh
White
Bread 4/
King
size
loaves **\$1**

Swift's
Vienna
Sausage 3/99¢
5 oz. can

Mueller's
Elbow 1 lb.
pkg. **Macaroni** **39¢**

ASSID DECORATED
**GALA
TOWELS**
10 MIBEROL
49¢



OUR PRODUCE is FRESHER!

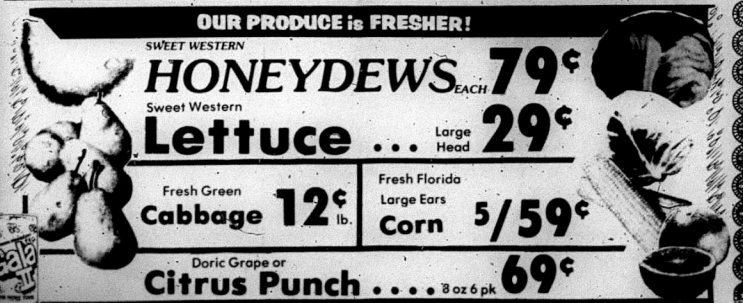
SWEET WESTERN
HONEYDEWS EACH **79¢**

Sweet Western
Lettuce ... Large
Head **29¢**

Fresh Green
Cabbage 12¢ lb.

Fresh Florida
Large Ears
Corn 5/59¢

Doric Grape or
Citrus Punch ... 8 oz 6 pk **69¢**



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KEG'O
KETCHUP
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Fiftieth Anniversary Special Issue

This special
issue is
published
by the
Belle Glade
Herald
April 6,
1978

Where the City of Belle Glade now
stands, there once existed only
custard apple trees and sawgrass.
Today, only a few of these unique
trees can be found, almost all of
them on Tory Island. This issue is
dedicated to the pioneers of Belle
Glade who settled, worked, and
helped the town grow to greatness.
This custard apple tree is a
reminder of those days gone by,
only a few short years ago.

History not complete

About this issue

When we first began to research and compile the history of Belle Glade through its first 50 years, it didn't take long to realize full well all we could do was "scratch the surface."

It has been said before that no area in the United States is so rich in history as the Everglades.

Of Belle Glade this is especially true.

It is the youngest town on Lake Okeechobee. Yet it is the largest. Of the early settlers, few are left. Of the new, they face an uncertain future with confidence in their own abilities.

We could not hope to publish a full and accurate summary of Belle Glade's first 50 years.

So what we have attempted to do with this historical issue is to prick your curiosity. We have interviewed people who played major roles in Belle Glade. We have written stories on events from 1928 through the present. We have compiled old information and published some that may never have been printed before.

But this history is far, far from complete.

What we can do, if history is of interest to you, is point you in some directions and give you some ideas of where to go to find and research the history of the Glades for yourself.

We would recommend you start with Dr. Alred and Kathryn Hanna's excellent book, "Lake Okeechobee." This gives a good overall view of the Everglades as a whole. And there is no way to appreciate the history of Belle Glade without knowing that of Okeechobee, Moore Haven, Pahokee, and Clewiston as well.

Next, start on the books written by Lawrence Will.

Mr. Will has been called the "Cracker Historian" of the Everglades. He was much more than that. He was Belle Glade's first fire chief. He was instrumental in working with many local groups. He was a businessman whose business, Pioneer Motor Company, continues through today.

But most of all, he was an observer and a believer the acts of man and nature should be recorded for future generations.

Without a knowledge of where we have been, how are we to know where we are going?

Mr. Will's book, "From Swamp to Sugar Bowl," is a history of Belle Glade. It is written in a highly entertaining fashion and is a delight to read, as are the other books he has written.

After this, do some more research. Join the Glades Historical Society, which meets monthly and whose programs are of and about the history of the area.

Talk to the old timers. There are still many around who were here when Belle Glade was new. They can tell you much.

A great deal of the information in this special issue was prepared from old newspapers, both Howard Sharp's Everglades News begun in 1921 and Luther Jones' Belle Glade Herald, which was started in 1940.

In places, you will find some of the information this issue contains differs from some published in Mr. Will's books. This is not saying Mr. Will or the newspaper was wrong, but people see history in different ways. To have a slightly different slant, we have chosen to follow the newspaper accounts.

Belle Glade was founded on the banks of the Hillsboro Canal, a water artery dug to drain Lake Okeechobee. It became great because the city was the focal point of water, rail and road traffic. Other cities have not been so fortunate and have been founded, grown and reached their peak, and died before Belle Glade was even a healthy settlement.

In our research, we have gathered a great deal of information on the 1928 hurricane which killed over 2,000 people on the east shore of Lake Okeechobee.

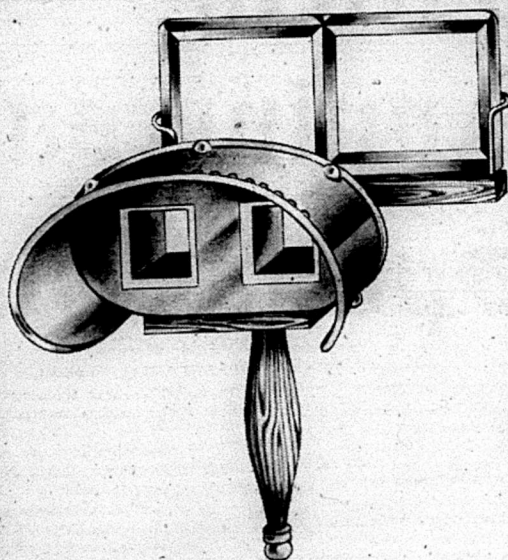
That will be used in another issue we are planning in September, so this contained little about the hurricane.

What we do hope you will find in this issue are a few of the reasons Belle Glade grew and why. Information about people, institutions and businesses that contributed to the growth and how they went about it.

Much of this has never been compiled before.

As we said, this cannot be a comprehensive history of Belle Glade. But it can be a starting point you can use to learn more.

We urge you to do so.



Copies of this special Anniversary Issue are now available at the offices of the Belle Glade Herald in Belle Glade. If you wish to send a copy to a friend or relative, we will be happy to do it for you. Send \$1 and the address you wish a copy to be sent to cover postage and handling and we will mail it for you. Extra copies are 25¢ each and a limited supply is on hand.

"VOICE OF
THE GLADES"

THE BELLE GLADE HERALD

Where what you read
today becomes the
history of tomorrow

425 S. Main

996-2056

Early politicians "Slick Hicks"

The people who masterminded the incorporation of Belle Glade as a city, or town as it first was, lost nothing in comparison with their city slicker cousins when it came to politics. They might even have been called "Swamp Slickers."

Even in the cold legal documents recording the beginning of a city 50 years ago this week, there is evidence these were no ordinary men who pioneered the Glades and when the recollections of people like Lawrence Will are added to the legal history, the reading becomes even more interesting.

If minutes were ever taken at that historical meeting in what is variously called the Belle Glade Church House and the Methodist Church in Belle Glade, no one has been able to find them in the past several months.

Neither is there a record of those 72 voters, of the 76 qualified in the area, who jammed the church building that evening of April 9, 1928, although the city clerk does possess a register of 78 voters who were qualified to vote in the town's next election, held exactly one year later on April 9, 1929.

The oldest record in city hall is the notice, posted in three places in the community March 10, 1928, notifying, "all persons who are registered voters or legal voters, residing in the proposed corporate limits of the land hereinafter set out and described, and to all other persons concerned:

You and each one of you are hereby given notice to assemble in a meeting to be held in Belle Glade, at the Belle Glade Church House, Palm Beach County, Florida at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Monday the 9th day of April, A.D. 1928..."

The notice of the April 9 meeting was signed by James O. Darden, C.B. Lozier, B.V. Pace, M.C. Eggleston and Leo J. Rader. Pace was one of the first five aldermen elected during the meeting of incorporation.

When the meeting began in the small church building at West Second Street and the Hillsboro Canal, Walter Greer was the person who called it to order and "stated the purpose of the meeting."

Greer had been requested to serve as chairman and his first action was to appoint Alice E. Reed to act as secretary.

The next order of business, after determining 72 of the area's 76 qualified voters were present, was to set out the boundaries of the proposed town...and that's where Greer ran into trouble, according to Will.

Those limits were finally decided upon, after "considerable warm discussion," Will wrote, and the meeting's second argument broke out over whether and why the incorporation should go ahead at all.

Will said Greer finally, seeing the argument was getting nowhere at all, called for nomination of a mayor. Greer easily won that election, with 37 votes (the same number he received the following year in a re-election campaign) over Pace, W.H. Badger and L.C. Betzner.

Nominations were quickly called for town clerk and J.M. Kelly picked up 39 votes to win that race over a field consisting of L.S. Stump, L.C. Betzner, Allen Greer, Ivan Smith, Pace and Miss Alice A. Reed.

That chore accomplished, Will said the meeting became another shouting match, with sides being drawn over the boundaries, for the second time, over taxes which could be levied and over the desirability of incorporation (again).

And that's when Greer and the other masterminds started getting "slick." The mayor of the still non-existent town cajoled the voters present.

"Since we have started this, and while you all are here, let's just go ahead and see who we would consider suitable members for a town council in case we should decide to incorporate," according to Will.

"Slips were passed around," Will wrote in *From Swamp to Sugar Bowl*, "with instructions to write five names for commissioners. There was considerable challenging of voters. One man, Murray Gay, was caught in the act of dropping nine complete ballots into the hat, and he lived in South Bay, at that."

But Will skipped over one little oddity found in the transcript of that meeting.

When the ballots were read, with nominees for alderman being named as Frank Franz, L. T. Creech, Dr. W.J. Buck,

L.C. Betzner, B.V. Pace, L.S. Stump, G.S. Evans, M.C. Eggleston, W.H. Badger, Mrs. Helen Lanham and Miss Alice A. Reed being listed, the results came out with Buck, Creech, Franz, Betzner and Pace winning...with each of the winners garnering exactly 50 votes per person.

Will had already pointed out that the most powerful people in town opposing incorporation were Creech, Franz, Betzner and Pace and went further to say the "plotters" who were for the incorporation had also figured to pull their teeth would be to elect them to the council.

Since all four were elected to the council, along with Dr. Buck, the fact that all five of the aldermen received the same number of votes to win would seem to support Will's contention.

More arguments broke

out, according to Will, while E.C. Everett was being elected to the post of town marshal, with 39 votes over a field made up of W.H. Swango and S.A. Roberts; with Betzner making the motion, "that we don't incorporate. That's the reason we're here anyway."

"Greer had to pound like mad to stop the applause (caused by a statement by "Blondy" Newman in support of Betzner's motion) while he announced that Clarence Everett...had been elected..." Will said. "Then, rising to his full six feet of blacksmith's bone and muscle, he sprang the trap."

"Ladies and gentlemen, you being a representative group comprising more than two thirds of the qualified electors residing in the proposed town, have elected a mayor, a town clerk, a board of councilmen and

a law enforcement officer. Having complied with Public Law No. 1825 of the Revised Statutes of Florida, you have duly incorporated the Town of Belle Glade, and I now declare it to be legally incorporated," Will quoted Greer.

Riding out the explosion of wrath following his announcement, Greer finally restored order long enough to get confirmation by Newman T. Miller, "a prominent attorney from West Palm Beach, who by some sort of coincidence just accidentally happened to be seated in the rear pew."

As an epilogue to the meeting, Will noted that Greer left town that night and took the train for Jacksonville, where he remained for three days at a Baptist convention before returning home. By the time he returned, however, Greer had already been sworn in to his new office.



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Chevrolet — it's the best buggy around! And for the winning team, shop Bonavia — we'll give you old-fashioned value.

Bonavia Chevrolet

— Since 1976 —

209 South Main Street
Belle Glade

Gas...



It's nice to know, regardless of hurricane winds, gas is still there— safe and dependable. Gas will be there when you need it!

Glades Gas

Since 1932

5 W Av A — Belle Glade

Citizens start Glades General

The history of Glades General Hospital goes back to 1939 when a group of interested citizens had enabling legislation passed to establish a taxing body known as the Western Palm Beach County Hospital District. The hospital at that time was owned by the United States Government (U.S. D.A.) and was used solely for the care and treatment of the migratory workers.

In 1948 the United States executed a Quit Claim Deed for the hospital in favor of the Hospital District, and in 1949 the Southwestern Palm Beach County Public Hospital Board was given life by the legislature as the governing body of the hospital. The deed from the government provided that in July of 1968 the title to the property would become absolute in the Hospital District without any restrictive clauses as to its operation.

In 1960 the need for expanded facilities became apparent, and after much discussion which generated a great deal of interest, a decision was made to explore the possibilities of a joint hospital with Pahokee.

A survey by a hospital consulting firm was conducted; local citizens were aroused; civic and fraternal organizations were contacted, all of which led to many meetings between groups from each town. The thought was to locate the proposed hospital at a point approximately halfway between the towns in order to serve each community with equal accessibility.

In 1961 the freeholders from each area were given an opportunity to vote on the proposal and the measure was soundly defeated. Consequently, Belle Glade moved ahead with plans for a new hospital and also renovation of the existing 45-bed facility.

After the usual preliminary discussions with the old Florida Development Commission and representatives from Hill-Burton, an architectural firm from Miami, was contacted and plans were formulated. The draft called for a 75-bed hospital with core facilities for expansion to 150. The plans for the addition did not include remodeling of the old hospital since Hill-

Burton would not participate under this arrangement.

Finally the plans and specifications were completed and the contract was let at a figure of \$1,286,475. To this \$11,973 in change orders was added. The community supported the new addition from start to finish, as evidenced by the fact that individuals as well as organizations donated \$900 for furnishing the private and \$1,500 for the semi-private rooms. Thirty out of 38 rooms were furnished by donations.

The remodeling of the old hospital started in September of 1965 and was completed in February, 1966, at a cost of \$110,729. The renovation of the building included such items as installation of vinyl-asbestos floors throughout, wood paneling of the patients' rooms, installation of a nurse-patient intercom, individual air conditioners, and vinyl wainscoting in the halls.

At one time the hospital operated three fully organized outpatient clinics. The first of the clinics organized was the low-cost maternity clinic. The second was the cardiac clinic, underwritten by the Heart Association of Palm Beach County, which served more than 250 patients per year. The last and largest was the indigent clinic, accounting for almost 1,600 patients per year. Due to the changing patterns of health care delivery, these clinics are no longer functioning; however, the care is still being delivered.

Another vital segment of the hospital life in Belle Glade is the auxiliary. This group of dedicated women has grown tremendously during the last few years. They perform such invaluable services as staffing the visitors information and operating the gift shop; running untold errands; donating equipment; and last but certainly not least, they spread that priceless ingredient known as good will throughout the community.

Projecting into the future somewhat, there have been discussions over allocating some of the rooms in the old hospital for an Extended Care Facility. There are many problems connected with such a program, well as being close to the

but the need for such a facility is present and possibly Glades General Hospital can help fill it.

Another essential element at Glades General Hospital is the Licensed Practical Nursing Program. On April 22, 1966 a letter was written to the Florida State Board of Education inquiring how to proceed to establish a school of Practical Nursing. The subsequent reply and months of meetings led to the establishment of such a school through the Department of Vocational Education of the School Board of Palm Beach County.

The first class of students started in July, 1967 and the course has operated continuously ever since. The program, which is 12 months in duration, is based at the hospital and gives the student a well-rounded exposure to all the clinical areas of nursing.

Patient services are in keeping with the medical center concept of the hospital. The latest in design and equipment was incorporated into the building with an eye toward future expansion. The surgical suite has two operating rooms each with ceiling-hung outlets for oxygen, suction, nitrous oxide, etc., and intercom system allowing personnel to communicate with the nurses' station; a cystoscopic room; a recovery room; and such equipment as a cardiac monitor.

Central Supply, located just a few steps from the Surgical and Obstetrical Suites, is also well equipped to meet the demands of the hospital. There are three large tables for sorting and packing, and a three-unit stainless steel washing area. There is adequate storage space plus a double unit distillery for preparation of sterile distilled water. X-Ray has one 500-MA running untold errands; and one 550-MA unit, which enable the department to render fast and efficient service. In 1974 the Department of Nuclear Medicine was established and this has fast become a highly useful diagnostic tool for the physician. The physical layout also contributes to efficiency, in that X-Ray rooms in the old hospital is directly accessible from the Emergency Department's examining and treatment areas as well as being close to the

surgical suite.

There is also a machine which transmits an EKG by telephone to anywhere in the world where a receiving set is located. The Emergency Department, which handled over 12,700 cases last year, is equipped with two examining rooms and two treatment rooms which are capable of supporting surgical procedures.

The Obstetrical Suite, containing two labor and two delivery rooms, has a nurse's station and a doctor's lounge as well as a doctor's charting room which opens into the nurse's station, facilitating transfer of charts and information. Each department has its own house-keeping and janitorial and a nurses' supply room, thereby eliminating cart traffic throughout the entire hospital.

In this area of the hospital, where air conditioning is a must, we have 250 tons with individual controls, as well as emergency life support-zone controls for halls

and other areas. There are two 125 h.p. high pressure boilers and a 300 KW emergency generator capable of maintaining all hospital functions.

The Laboratory is equipped to perform all of today's routine procedures as well as many of the more complicated ones. The Blood Bank, accredited by the American and Florida Associations of Blood Banks, is in full operation and only recently entered into an agreement with the Palm Beach County Blood Bank.

As a convenience to the medical staff, there is a central dictating system which permits a physician to dial in the recorder from any phone in the hospital as well as being able to access it from outside the hospital. Belle Glade saw what amounted to a boom during

Continued on Page 5

Wedgworth Farms ... — Since 1932 —



As one of Belle Glade's pioneering businesses, we'd like to take this opportunity to express our pride in all those who have worked to make Belle Glade a better place to live.

Wedgworth Farms, Inc
of Belle Glade

Glades General...

Continued from Page 7

ing the early sixties which has now subsided into a normal growth rate for the area. The hospital was designed and constructed to support additional floors when the time comes. In the meantime, Glades General Hospital will continue to maintain its position care and expand its services in an effort to maintain its position solidified by virtue of the fact that on June 15, 1966 the hospital was accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, and shortly thereafter was also designated as a provider of services under Medicare.

Glades General Hospital is a member of the American Hospital Association, Southeastern Hospital Conference, Florida Hospital Association, Palm Coast Hospital Council, Florida Blue Cross, Inc. and the Palm Beach County Area-wide Health Planning Council, Inc.

It is licensed by the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (Division of Health), accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, and approved by Florida Association of Blood Banks, American Association of Blood Banks, H.E.W. for Medicare, State of Florida for Medicaid, and the State Board of Nursing for the School of Practical Nursing.

The Board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor for a term of three years, is composed of the following: William J. Miller, Jr., Chairman; Raymond Caruthers, Vice Chairman; Lee Berryhill, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Sandra Chamblee, David Hill, Y.E. Smith, and Donald Tanner.



SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS of the first senior class of Belle Glade High School in 1941 included Vice President Jimmie Williams, Treasurer Scott Lee, President Eudon Armstrong and Secretary Glennia Betzner.

Fire burns city buildings

The need for a fire department was pointed out early in Belle Glade's history.

In 1930, records Lawrence Will in his book "Swamp to Sugar Bowl," Paul Bush alerted the town to the fact a store in Belle Glade was in flames.

It quickly spread to the seed and feed store next door and a crowd began to gather.

The town's only fire fighting device, a 40 gallon foam extinguisher on wheels, was brought into play but in less than a minute, it sputtered and went out.

The West Palm Beach fire department was notified and rushed a pumper to Belle Glade's assistance, but before it got to Six Mile Bend, a tire went flat and the truck was halted.

The only other fire truck was in Moore Haven, 45 miles away. But there was a pumper in Lake Harbor, not really a fire truck but a vehicle used in putting out muck fires along the roads, and John Manga, the Belle Glade Hotel manager, went to fetch it.

By this time, the sur had come up and the fire had spread to a hardware store, pool hall and other buildings.

It continued to spread to the next building, a general store owned by V.C. Denton and operated by W.W. and John McCurdy.

The residents attempted to dynamite the Denton store, but the blast only seemed to splinter the wooden building and make the flames hotter.

The Postal Telegraph building was next, but before it could catch, the muck fire truck arrived and was put into service wetting down the walls and the fire was contained.

In all, the fire consumed all but two buildings along Main Street.

Immediately after the fire, the city began to look for a fire truck and soon found one in West Palm Beach that had been built in 1913. The city bought it for \$3,000

and had to fork up another \$2,800 for hose.

Will became the fire chief and served the city in that office for years.

April 6, 1978, 50th ANNIVERSARY—5A

Did septic tanks cause city to grow?

In the Everglades News, April 1925, Editor Howard Sharp commented upon a unique reason for Belle Glade's rapid growth and development.

C.E. Riedel was in the process of developing a subdivision in the community and before doing so, took a trip to the coast to learn how to construct and maintain septic tanks.

Upon his return, he stipulated with each lot sold that the new landowner would have to put in a septic tank for sewage handling.

Sharp had some observations to make on this situation. "It has been argued," he wrote, "at other places in the Glades that septic tanks will not work because of the high water table; against that argument is the fact it can be done in Belle Glade, and as it can be done there, it can be done elsewhere...unless

people aren't interested in sanitary conditions and make the argument as an excuse for indolence."

Sharp, always the promoter, ended his story with this comment. "A clean town will attract more nice people than a stinking town will."

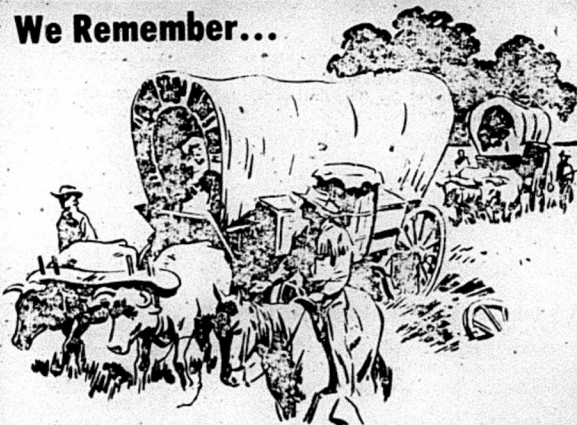


toys - appliances
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**Western
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70 W Av A Belle Glade

We Remember...



all the men, women, and children who braved the grave hardships of everyday living and made Belle Glade a better place for all of us to live in.

Happy "50th" Birthday

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"Since 1954"

40 SW Av B — Belle Glade

FINA
Let Our Fine
Gasoline
Drive Your Buggy!



"Today's Product
at
Yesterday's
Prices"

Since 1975

**Belle
Glade
FINA**

281 So. Main
Belle Glade



Happy
"50th"
Birthday

Comfort
Airconditioning
and
Sheet Metal
424 SE Av E-Belle Glade

Greer was first mayor, etc.

It could be said of Walter Greer that he was first in many things.

He was the first mayor of Belle Glade, although a reluctant mayor, was the first to successfully drive a car to West Palm Beach, was the first to grow beans in the area, and owned in partnership with E.G. Flemming the first packing house in Belle Glade.

He first came to the Glades in 1911, but didn't make it to the lake because of swift currents. Figuring if the current was that bad, all the wa-

ter would be drained off shortly, he invested in some land near Belle Glade.

He and his family, wife Fay Tina and sons Claire, Allen, Vance, Nello, James, Fred, and daughters Fern, Loti, Pearl and Georgia set about farming in the winter of 1918.

While Greer claimed to have the first tractor in Belle Glade, that has been disputed by several, including H.H. Hart and Lawrence Will.

Anyway, with all those children a man really



didn't need a tractor and the first bean crop was a success with Greer selling them for \$7 per hamper to C.B. Lozier of Ft. Lauderdale. Lozier turned around the got \$15 for them in New York. Today isn't the only time the "middle men" have made it big in agriculture.

This first shipment brought orders for more and the bean industry was on for good. For the next 30 years, Belle Glade would live in the up and down economy of beans.

Greer drove the first vehicle, a worm-drive truck, to West Palm Beach shortly after the muck road was "completed" in 1921. In one spot, a barge for ferrying cars across the canal where the road ended on one side and began again on the other had not yet been installed, so he was forced to wait until a tourboat came along and offered to take him to the other side.

In 1922, the family's fortune took a downturn when a flood wiped out their corn crop. Another, even larger flood in 1924 didn't help matters much either, so Greer turned

to business and built himself a service station.

While his children operated the station, another son would be busy hauling gasoline in barrels from West Palm and at one time, his lone pump was registering more gasoline sales than any other in Palm Beach County.

Greer also operated the first packing house, located on the Hillsboro Canal, and he and Flemming shipped Irish potatoes from it grown on 60 acres of muckland.

Greer passed away in 1960 at the age of 91, after being first in many other civic and social improvements. During the early days he was instrumental in working for the road he was first to travel, the first school and church, an experiment station, and many other things.

(Information on Greer obtained from "From Swamp to Sugar Bowl.")

Since
1926
In Belle Glade
Since
1965



**Hard work and
Honesty —**
the cornerstone of
our country's
foundation

**Rinker
Materials Corp.**

Fla. 715 & FEC RR — Belle Glade

First peanuts tested

In the early '20's, H.H. Hart raised a test plot of peanuts where the Belle Glade Herald now stands and the yield was such that the Brown Company of Portland, Ore. became interested in the Everglades.

Hart's one-acre patch raised a total of 225 bushels and were tended

by Zilly Eggerston. This was more than double the amount raised on any other plot in the United States and based on this information, the Brown Company bought a total of 73,000 acres for peanut raising.

This was the start of Brown's Farm.



**Perseverance, Honesty,
and Dependability**

—the qualities which made our
nation great are those which
have made Belle Glade great also.

Congratulations
From

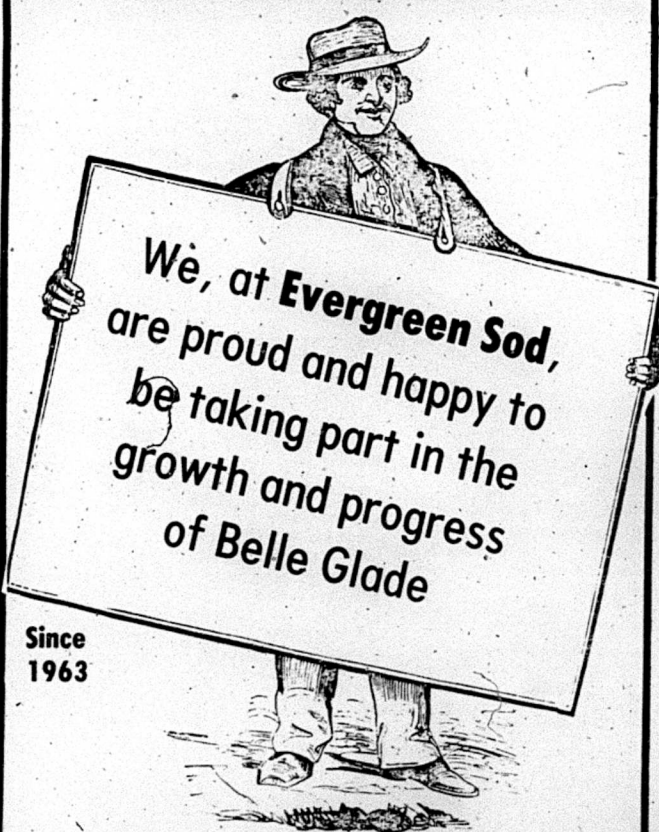
**Sucrose
Growers
Inc.**

Since 1963

State Rd. 80 - Belle Glade



**Young's
Florist**
Belle Glade
and
South Bay

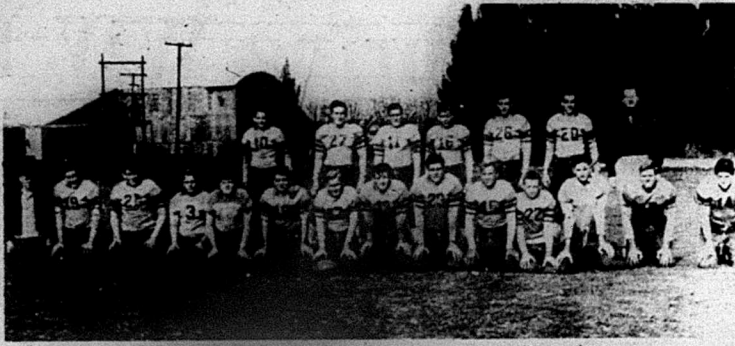


Since
1963

Evergreen Sod

U.S. 27

Belle Glade



MEMBERS OF THE FIRST Belle Glade High School football team, the Golden Rams, were, front row, left to right, Roger Cunningham, Jimmy Williams, Clarence Kidder, Elmer Kirchman, LeBron Williams, Bennie Richmond, Wilbur Kirchman, Jack Whitlock, Tom Lloyd, Richard Pike, Richard Hotaling, Philip Clayton, J.D. Groggans, and Pickens Woodward. On the back row are George Wedgworth, W.L. Cunningham, Billy Hill, Billy Eggleston, Eudon Armstrong and Eugene Hatcher. The team picture was made in 1941.

**Rams
first
edition**

Let Us Give Thanks



it is the agricultural areas
like Belle Glade and
Pahokee which are the
backbone of our great
country.

Pahokee Produce

2701 E. Main St. — Pahokee

“Harvest of Shame” stirs residents to anger in 1961

It is doubtful that anything could have stirred up Belle Glade more than the airing of “Harvest of Shame,” a documentary propoing to show the conditions of migrant workers in the Glades.

The documentary, produced by Ed Murrow and shown over CBS television stations in late November, 1961, was quickly called to task by local residents who reported its inaccuracies.

The documentary was filmed in Belle Glade and alleged that a migrant worker named Alean King was living in a run-down shack that housed she and her 14 children and in a day's work in the fields, she was paid

\$1 for her labor.

The documentary was quickly challenged. It was discovered that the King family contained seven children, not 14 as she had said. She had given birth to 14, but only seven survived.

The woman was married to Will King, an employee of Wedgworth Farms, was being paid \$83.50 weekly and though Mrs. King said she received only \$1 per day for farm work, it was discovered she and her children had picked 75 hamper of beans at 75 cents per hamper in one day.

Mrs. King had given birth to twins on two occasions. One pair was stillborn and all her children were born in the hospital at public expense.

Mrs. King also had a daughter in the hospital and the bill, totalling \$943.80, was paid by the Welfare Department of Palm Beach County.

The Palm Beach Post-Times published a 20-page supplement giving “the other side” of the story and revealing the inaccuracies in the documentary.

Locally, the Belle Glade Herald published several pages of facts showing the “Harvest of Shame” was inaccurate and stating that whatever good comes from Ed Murrow’s “great deceit practiced on trusting and cooperative citizens, pub-

lic officials and organizations, we believe will come from the shame heaped upon himself, the broadcasting system... and the television industry forcing corrective regulations by the FCC and bringing more character into the industry.”

It was pointed out that another family, that of Willie Foster, was in a situation quite like that of the Kings. Both families came to the Glades in the 1930s. The Kings had seven children still living, most of whom worked in the fields. The Fosters had nine children surviving. Four graduated from college, two were in college, one was in the Air Force, and two were still in high school.

Both families came to the Glades as migrants and while the Kings failed to substantially improve their lifestyle, the Fosters were able to do so under the same conditions.

While many were asking for “equal time” and the program’s sponsor, Philip Morris Tobacco Company, was telling residents it was denied the right to view the production before agreeing to sponsor it, CBS was saying its right to air the documentary came under the freedom of the press. CBS said its documentary “accurately indicated conditions” in the Glades.



— Since 1928 —

As Belle Glade pioneers we are proud
of our fine Glades area and the part
we have played.

Chamblee Farms, Inc
of Belle Glade

The Town 'n Country Shop

429 S.E. 2nd St.
Belle Glade

Founded
1965

“Our relatives
pioneered
the
Glades
and
we’re
proud!”

Frank & Virginia
Anderson
Helen Richardson
Helen Cherry
Browder

City was hopping during WW II

It could be said that World War II was what really put Belle Glade on the map.

Before the war, the sleepy village of just over 3,000 people farmed their fields and ran the town's few businesses without hurry.

But like everywhere else, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1940, things picked up quickly.

During the war, Belle Glade sent approximately 300 of its young men to the fields of combat, black and white together.

More importantly, the town was able to contribute a much more important effort by helping to grow the food necessary to keep the fighting men fighting.

And better yet, everybody made money at the same time.

No lure could be greater and the town's population grew quickly. By 1943, Belle Glade was calling itself the "Queen City of the Glades" and a census found that the town had outgrown Pahokee in size.

The census revealed 11,481 people living in Belle Glade, Chosen, South Bay and Lake Harbor.

Belle Glade's portion of this was 9,400 people. This was about triple the "before war" total. Chosen had 2,084, South Bay 3,991 and Lake Harbor 1,255.

This made the town of Belle Glade second only to West Palm Beach in population as well as the youngest city in the Glades.

As was said before, everybody made money during World War II. But there were still problems, mostly a dire shortage of labor.

In one harvest period spanning seven days, it was figured \$180,000 was paid out to bean pickers with prices ranging up to \$1.10 per hamper picked. Before the war, the average price per hamper was closer to 25 cents.

Even with these high labor prices, growers continued to make handsome profits.

An article in the summer, 1943, showed Belle Glade paid over \$6 million to bean pickers "tax free for half-time work."

Still, labor was in short supply. There were killings over the "pirating" of work crews, one man being shot on his porch with a .22 rifle after he picked from ano-

ther farmer.

The problem became so critical during late summer in 1943 that growers and the United States Sugar Corporation began to ask the government for help.

The help soon arrived when it was announced 3,000 Jamaican workers would be allowed to come into the Glades to cut sugarcane. Offshore workers had never before been allowed in the Glades, though they had been used for a number of years in the north. Up to 5,000 at a time had harvested crops in the New England states and the Carolinas, but the government had never seen fit to allow them to be imported into South Florida, though the labor problem had existed in some measure before the war.

It soon became apparent 3,000 men would not be enough for the task at hand and the government agreed that still more men could come and work.

That harvest season saw a total of 3,500 Jamaicans and 1,600 men from the Bahamas finally imported to work in both the vegetable and sugar industries.

Other than seeing to it ample supplies of food were being grown on the rich muck soil, Belle Glade's citizens responded to the war effort in other ways as well.

Throughout the conflict, children gathered scrap iron, tires and aluminum; participated in blackouts and conducted aircraft spotting and identification programs.

Palm Beach County had the distinction of being the only Florida county receiving the "A" Army award for agricultural achievement and Belle Glade was the site of the celebration.

Records in the Glades determined that better than 80 percent of the county's shipments of foodstuffs originated from the muckland. Totals and crops included the following: lima beans, 2,300 acres; snap beans, 50,700 acres; English peas, 1,200; cabbage, 3,200; tomatoes, 275; peppers, 1,100; lettuce, 325; escarole, 250; celery, 2,370; eggplant, 375; Irish potatoes, 3,000; and cucumbers, 200 acres planted.

Snap beans were the most vital and important crop being grown and the Glades had exceeded its

war-time imposed goal of 35,000 acres planted by 15,000 acres.

Shipments of snap beans and lima beans during 1943 were 15,854 carloads, 5,500 of which were canned in Florida. It was the largest acreage of any vegetable crop produced in the state.

The yield of snap beans produced for the war effort was also outstanding. It had risen from a low of 71 bushels to a 1943-high of 131 for a total of 7,795,000 bushels shipped.

The coveted "A" award was won by only 36 counties in the United States in 16 states and during the ceremony, proclamations were passed and Gov. Spessard Holland "radically changed" his plans in order to come to Belle Glade to officially accept the Army "A" pennant.

Pioneer farmers were recognized during the ceremonies for both their contributions to the war effort and for helping to found the area for future growth.

The pioneers on the program included L.V. Minear of Jupiter; E.F. Froelich of West Palm; W.J. Adams of Lake Worth; S.E. O'Neal of Delray; I.L. Tatom of Lake Harbor; M.D. Hardy of Bean City; Mrs. Ruth Wedgworth of Belle Glade; L.L. Stuckey of Pahokee; and Sam Chastain of Canal Point.

During World War II, over 300 white and black local men and women served in the conflict.

While a complete list of all who served is not available, this partial list published in 1943 should be of interest to residents now living in the Glades.

How many do you know?

M.L. Alsbaugh, Jr., Herbert Busbin, Edward Busbin, George Bender, Jimmie Boren, George Eggleston, Floyd T. Ashley, Dwight Conley, Thomas Creech, Marvin Berry, Lyle Blackburn; Albert Busbin, L.T. Allen, Charles Lane, Charles Belk, Dale Blackburn, Ray Bowlers, Robert Bair, Frank Currier, James Collins, Edward Conley, Leon Conley, Buster Christopher, Clyde Christopher, N.W. Beard;

Guy Bender, Lester Clark, Tommy Parker, Clarence Pate, Elmo Powell, Bufford Prescott, George Petrisevac, Lewis Register, Hans Stein, Ed-

die Schoepel, Frank Rashley, William P. Risk, Jr., John Rashley, Jr., Herbert Priest, Nicky Paff, Eugene Stewart; Alva Stewart, Fred Ogle, Earl Smith, Carl Thompson, Wallace Williams, Clarke Ogle, Rudolph McMillan, Lawrence McMillan, John Wilson, Jimmy Williams, C.A. Taylor, Jr.;

Nelson Morris, Robert Thomas, Frank Fears, Billy Taylor, J.C. Williams, Irwin Zumpf, Dutch Miller, Mike Murphy, Wilton Winne, Albert Lane, Buster Willis, Nash Lloyd, Bill Woodward, August Kirchman, Tommy Kelly, J.B. Jones, George Imes, Red Imes, J.P. Hodges, John Griffin, Alton Gilbert, Arthur Lee Gunter, John W. Hooker, Junius T. Harris, Frank H. Hollingsworth, Clarence Kidder;

Eugene Hardy, Milton Cooper, Clifford Allen, Marvin Lee, John Henderson, Erick Hartline, Lamon Hardy, Kathryn

Lyons, Elsie Mae Willits, William H. Willetts, William Cook, Dick Boatright, and Cook, Dick Boatright, Carroll Warren;

Dennis Partin, Aubrey Young, Sam Henderson, Arthur L. Burke, Virginia Larrick, Carmen de Gergorio, Mary Horton, Don Herrin, Jimmy Williams, Sidney K. Smith, Jr., Ivan Cowen, Louis Lowery, Roscoe Harris, Mable Rashley, Billy Taylor;

E.B. Parkinson, Leonard Tillman, J.V. Allen, W.A. Allen, Harold Lockmiller, John Hawkins, John Dunscombe, James Howington, Wilbur Daniels, Charles Baker, Adair Leffingwell, Paul Teague, Carmon Boone, Lewis Guignard, Raymond Shensky, Russel Weeks.

And there must have been many, many more not listed.

The majority returned home. Some did not. Many returned home with wounds to show for their service to their

country.

To those we did not name, we apologize; but the list is as complete as our records could make it.



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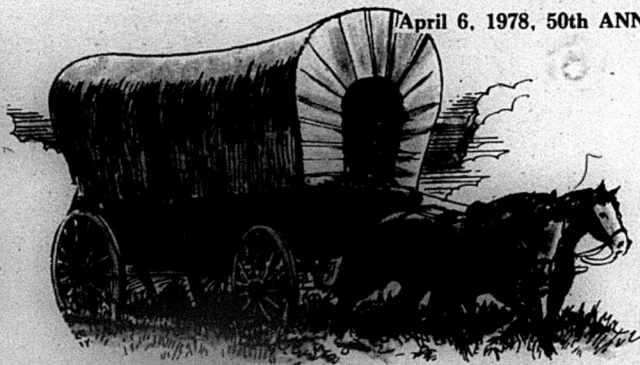
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Road travel was rough, Hart tries in first car

Travel during the early days was mostly by boat. Those who were lucky had mules or horses but these animals posed problems because of the wet landscape.

So they rode in boats powered by one-cylinder "make or break" ignition engines, paddled, or walked.

It appears the first automobile to reach what is now Belle Glade was one driven by H.H. Hart in the early 1920s. The exact date is unknown.

Driving from the east coast, Hart took the muck and sand road to Okeechobee, then called Tantie. The lake level was low, so he struck out along the lake bottom, crossing Taylor Creek, and traveled south to the Palm Beach Canal.

Hart crossed the canal on a hand-pushed ferry and managed to reach the present-day site of Pahokee, where he hired a mule as additional "horsepower" and started out again.

Driving across Pelican Lake was no problem as the water was so low it could be crossed. He, his

mule, and his car then got as far as the site of the Glades Correctional Institute before being stopped for good.

Hart couldn't force a passage through the dense custard apple woods and although he could hear wood being chopped by Belle Glade settlers, he could get no farther.

Turning west, he continued, hoping he could find somewhere to break through and soon he discovered by climbing a high tree, he was on Torrey Island. Hart said in later years it took him only "a few hours of driving through marshy ground" to accomplish this feat.

He camped the night on Torrey and the next day returned along the same route he had come in, never able to find an opening in the woods to the Hillsboro Canal.

Soon afterward, the county built a muck road from Palm Beach to Belle Glade by grading and pushing over the banks of spoil thrown up in building the Hillsboro Canal.

For the first time, it

was possible to drive to Belle Glade.

Even so, it was still hard work. From Twenty Mile Bend onward, the muck road was crossed by fences and in places, the road ended on one side of the canal and continued on the other.

The only way to drive it was to use one of the barges kept at these road intersections just for this purpose. Hand ropes were attached to either end of the barge and secured to the bank.

The motorist was forced to pull the barge to his side, drive onto it, and pull himself over to the otherside. That was half the problem. Many times, the other half was in attempting to get the car off the barge without it falling into the water.

Once accomplished, he could continue on to the next road interruption.

All twenty-miles was a "low gear" only situation.

By 1926, the muck road had been rocked, which helped during the wet season, but still presented difficulty.

Sharp rocks often cut



A FIVE-ROW RADISH HARVESTER moves through a field near Belle Glade in 1950. Radishes have become a major crop in the Glades, third in gross value with sales last year of \$11,541,299.

the tires and the early motorists found it necessary to carry patching material with them.

There were also patches of muck left and sometimes, a farmer's tractor was necessary to tow cars along the road for the first ten or fifteen miles.

Sometimes convoys of cars, two or three machines, were made up and a tractor accompanied them to see they made Twenty Mile Bend safely.



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First settlers had rough night

The first settlers to locate on the Hillsboro Canal in the area of what was to become Belle Glade were Orville Manning and Burr Gaylord. They had each bought 40 acres of land in Section

32, but were having extreme difficulty in finding their property because it was unsurveyed.

A boat captain, H.H. "Everglades" Hart, using the known speed of the boat and a bit of guesstimation, volunteered to take them to their land and put them ashore where he said it was.

Hart was close. Later years proved his estimate had allowed them to build the first cabin on the canal within 100 feet of their property line.

Manning was 19 and Gaylord 20 when they set about building that shack, which was located in the vicinity of the present Chamber of Commerce building.

It took only a few days to complete the iron-roofed abode and for another solid week, the men didn't see the face of another human.

But they weren't short on critters.

One of them shot a hawk for fish bait and after slicing off what meat he needed, hung the remainder in a willow tree behind the cabin.

Hart had warned them of the panthers roaming the countryside and that night, all manner of wildcats, raccoons, opossums and wild hogs gathered around to try to get some of the hawk.

It turned out to be a free-for-all outside that kept the pair inside until the next day.

The year they settled on the banks of the canal, as closely as can be determined, was in 1913.

The next building to be constructed in present-day Belle Glade was a nice bungalow owned by F.H. Meyer near where the bridge spans the canal on Main Street.

Meyer cleared some land by hand and planted corn on what was to become the junction of Avenue A and Main Street. The corn grew pretty well, too, as evidenced in a photograph taken in 1914.

Even though farmers were the first permanent settlers, it was sportsmen that caused the first commercial building to be constructed.

Ducks abounded on Lake Okeechobee and in the waterways around it. One old account from a commercial fisherman stated "the ducks were so thick that when we blew our horn (on the boat) they would sometimes rise in such flocks as to hide the sun."

Meyer realized the value of this wildlife crop and built a two-story hotel near his home to accommodate duck hunters. In addition to the ducks, the hunters also went after wild hogs and deer. It was nothing, according to an account, to see 50 wild hogs in one bunch along the canal's banks between Belle Glade and Chosen.

The winter of 1917 was a hard one and almost wiped out the infant town, but not through the loss of agricultural products, as at that time there were none being grown.

A hard freeze that year killed off the moonvines which almost covered the custard apple and willow trees Belle Glade was hacked out of and when the dead vines dried out, a great fire swept through the coun-

ty. The heat was so intense that brands of flame jumped the Hillsboro Canal and the few settlers had to flee. Several months later, however, the moonvines were back as thick as ever.



SEED CANE WAS CUT and loaded into this tractor, one of the first in the Glades, in 1927. Notice the iron wheels complete with spikes for better traction.

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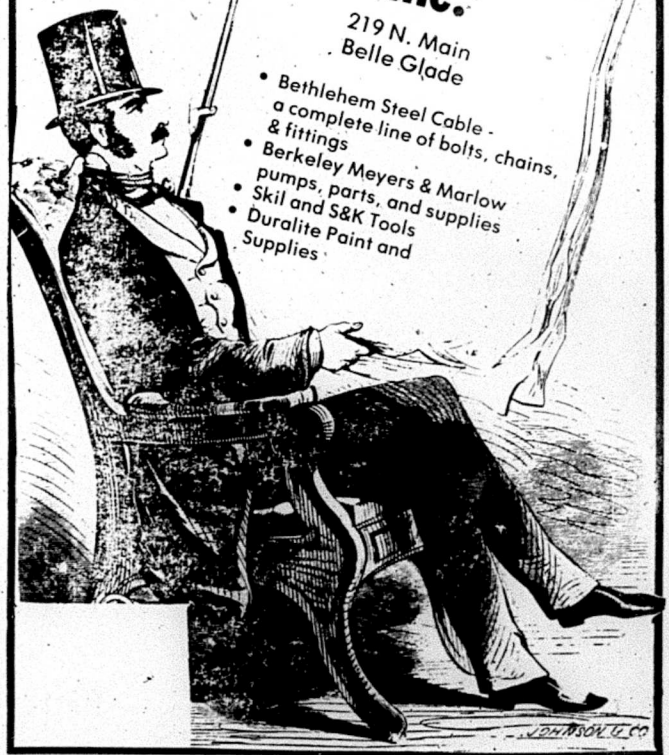
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Dike proves itself in 1949 hurricane

The Herbert Hoover Dike, built in the 1930 and early 40s, proved conclusively it could to the job when the great hurricane of 1949 struck.

Even though sustained winds reached 140 miles per hour, no lives were lost and the wind-blown floods that had killed 2,000 people in 1928 piled

up harmlessly against the massive earthen barrier.

The most serious erosion of the dike occurred between Belle Glade and Lake Harbor, where water swirled through the rim canal behind the "protection" of the islands just off the shore.

In one place, a 4,000-foot section of the dike was eaten almost halfway through in the nine and a half hours of pounding it underwent.

Before the hurricane, the lake level stood at 13.8 feet. Engineers estimated that had the lake level been eight feet higher, the dike would have been breached as the wind tide reached a level of 24.3 feet.

The seriously eroded section of the dike was restored with high-quality marl pumped from the bottom of the rim canal and after contouring the surface to conform to the rest of the structure, cement was plowed into the earth to form an "inches thick" protection of concrete against further and future wave action.



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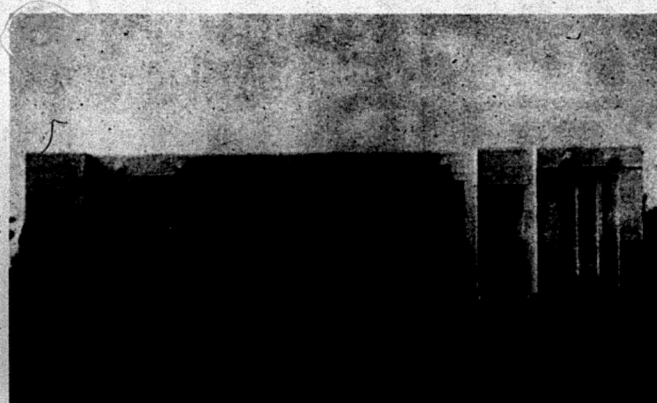
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THE NEW BELLE GLADE High School was built in 1939 and the first classes held in 1940. Before then, students attended school in Pahokee. The first class graduated from Belle Glade High in 1941.

First seniors graduated from Belle Glade in 1941

Belle Glade graduated its first high school class within the city in 1941, two years after the new building was completed. The high school is now Glades Central.

The first graduating class went first to South Bay for part of their elementary schooling, they back to Belle Glade for the latter part, then to Pahokee to attend high school.

Dr. Clarence Kidder, a graduate of the first class, recalls his class completed the first two years of high school in Pahokee and came back to Belle Glade as juniors.

The first senior class officers were Eudon Armstrong, president; Glennia Betzner, secretary; Jimmy Williams, vice president; and Scott Lee, treasurer.

The school principal was F.O. Hobson and the class was sponsored by Mrs. June Shriver and Mrs. Ida Hardy.

Members of the class included Herbert Eudon Armstrong, Ralph William Bishop, Walter Leon Cunningham, Jr., Bernard Kirkland Eldon, John Roscoe Harris, Jr., Charles Eugene Hatcher, Clarence Wyman Kidder, Wilbur Fredrick Kirchner, Scott Lee, Joe E. Murphy, James Dennick Orser, Fred Strickland, James Eugene Waddell, James Edward Williams, Jr., Beatrice Elizabeth Angel, Joyce Lucille Bailey, Zelma Glennia Betzner, Mertice Myrle Chancy, Laura Elizabeth Cunningham, Mary Julia Daub, Marion Isabel Gold, Janey Laurene

Henderson, Frances Annette Maples, Doreen Marguerite King, Elenor Ruth Ratley, Lois Pauline Robinson, Elaine Short, Constance Vivian Smith, Letha Grenada Stacy, Lois Geneva Tidwell, and Marion Elizabeth Williams.

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First city clerk's duties unique

[Editor's Note: The following is a copy of a speech delivered to a civic club about the early history of Belle Glade. Mr. Bratley was the first city clerk.]

Now, I just have a little talk on this and that about Belle Glade. I haven't made any notes and I don't know, I may forget some of the things I have in mind.

I am going to go back when the post office was known as Torrey Island out near the Lock on the Canal. Now I am not going to go back into early history, but I am going to give that as a starting point and I hope to tell you a little about Belle Glade. At that time there was a little settlement this side of the canal and on the other side of the canal a home was built by Mr. Badger, and on the other side of the locks there was a little settlement started. Everybody had to go up to the Torrey Island Post Office on Rabbit Island for the mail. A little inconvenient, as you perhaps know. Now I am going to tell these things not for the people who have been here for a long time, but I thought there are some people who had not been here for a long time and maybe this early information will be of interest. All lines of transportation were through the canals and the main canal that supplied this territory was the North New River Canal coming up from Fort Lauderdale and the mail came up to the Torrey Island Post Office twice a week. And incidentally, it came up to the little town of Okeelanta and Mr. Badger would take his boat and go up to the Post Office on the day the mail would come in. He operated a little store. He would bring the mail down to his store and people would go across the canal from this side. The way they got across the canal was to go on the boat and drawing on the rope would pull themselves across. That was the transportation. There was no bridge.

Then the people on this side of the Canal wanted to get a name and did not know how they were going to get it. Several names were suggested, and Mrs. Meyer, who was running the hotel located about where the Army Supply Store is now, conceived the idea of having people vote on it and several names were suggested by the people living in this settlement. Everyone who came in the hotel and anyone in the community would put their ballot in the box as to what they thought would be a nice name for the settlement. When the ballot box was opened "Belle Glade" received the most votes. I thought that was rather nice because "belle" meaning a beautiful young lady and "glade" a new settlement. I thought that was a very pretty name. But, of course, I wasn't here at that time.

And along about that time Mr. Riedel came to town and settled down by the canal about where the road turns into the Okeelanta Sugar Mill. He came up and bought some land in this area and he platted the Town of Belle Glade using as the original plat the territory from Main Street to Second Street and Avenue E to the Canal. That was the original townsite of Belle Glade, and he gave space for the Town Hall and just in passing, I wish to say this: He also gave the location for the Methodist Church north of Second Street, and along the Canal and then when that building was destroyed at the time of the hurricane someone wanted to locate over in this part of town, and he made a trade with them for the location where the present parsonage is and the old church. I am saying that for the benefit of Rev. Holladay and Dr. Moore, and oh yes, you might be interested, the house in which he lives was located across Avenue A and if you pick around in the grass west of Mr. Bailey's office I think that you will find a pipe on which there was a pitcher pump on the back porch of the house, and about that same time Tom Walters subdivided colored town into Glades subdivision, and I understand that there was quite a bit of talk because colored town was so far away from the white town. When I came here in '31 there was a town west of Second Street. The corner where the Bank now is was vacant and the little ice house was there. I presume that it was Slim Rutledge's, and then over on the other corner where the ten cent store is now was grown up to weeds and grass. That is

rather beside the question. Belle Glade, I think was incorporated about 1928 and in the meantime, there had been a water system established and the foundation of the tank where the water was forced from you will see on the lot across from the Glades Chevrolet on Avenue B, and that was taken over later from the City and then from that our water system developed. I will mention that again.

As I just said, I came in December of 1931 and shortly after I had been here, oh, about a year, Judge Tedder was the Mayor, and said the job would be about two hours a day and asked me if I would be Clerk of the Town.

They had not had a regular clerk, and well there was no tax list and there was no water list. I did find a couple of pages that had property owners' names on them and that was supposed to be the tax list and I found on a piece of scrap paper a list of people who had subscribed to the water service. They paid \$1.50. They were supposed to pay \$1.50 a month and there were no meters. You used as much as you chose or as you wanted to only it was sulphur water of course, and the water was used for toilet purposes and for the

yards and when I went into the Clerk's office a man came in one day and said, "Here's \$10." I said, "What is it for?" "To put on my water bill." I had no idea at all what it was so I busied myself and tried to get records and I was working there quite a good deal longer than the two hours and I was surprised one night in the council meeting Mr. Tedder proposed to the Commission that they hire me on a full-time basis and give me \$100 a month. So I had that job for about five years. It was a lot of work. No one will know the work that it took to pull these records together and I say it modestly, but I am just a little proud of the way this work was done, and later on, putting a feather in my cap, I am going to say this, a little later on when we had our town hall, we voted bonds for that and previously to that we had our water works bonds, Mr. Lutz and I were standing in front of his store. Mr. Lutz was one of the Commissioners at that time, and we were admiring the new Town Hall. It was completed and just ready to be turned over to the Commissioners and he turned to me and said, "Bratley, I consider that Town Hall a monument to you." I said, "Why, Mr. Lutz, by what

stretch of imagination had no authority to tell can you say that?" He said, "If you hadn't gone in and gotten up the water list and tax list, we never could have gotten bonds to have built the town hall and water works."

"Well, looking at it in this way," he went on to say, "the town could never have hired a man who had the ability to do that kind of work." I was happy to do it because I felt that I had something to do with building of Belle Glade. Oh, yes, in the early system there was no way of turning the water off and if a man wanted to pay his \$1.50 a month, all well and good, but not many of them wanted to do that and it was my job to get the money and I got quite out of patience with some. My righteous indignation boiled on many occasions. I had one man who lived up at Avenue D at that time and he was way behind on his water bill and sometimes he would be \$15 or at me and then he came \$20 behind on their water bill and so would pay on to pay his water bill. I told him he would have the time. Well, that was encouraging, but this or more, so the next day man never would pay a he came in with the full thing. So I recollect tell amount and his water ing him if he didn't pay was turned on. And I by a certain time I would want to say, we had no have to shut his water telephones, but the word off. Now, gentlemen, I

Continued on Page 14



Dr. Buck featured in story

[Editor's Note: The following is the only news story we have been able to locate on the incorporation of Belle Glade. It was printed in the April 13, 1928 issue of the Everglades News.]

Belle Glade
Incorporated

Walter Greer is
Elected Mayor

Vote Barely
Sufficient

Belle Glade is now an incorporated town with a mayor, Walter Greer, a town marshal, E.C. Everett, a clerk, J.M. Kelly, and five councilmen, L.C. Betzner, Dr. Buck, L.T. Creech, F. Franz, and Mr. Evans.

Dr. Wm. J. Buck, a physician and surgeon, formerly of West Palm Beach, has located at Belle Glade for the practice of medicine and in the course of a few weeks will establish an infirmary or hospital.

The hospital will open with six beds and an X-ray and other laboratory

equipment and is intended to serve all of the upper Everglades, Dr. Buck said Tuesday. An assistant, or such assistants are required, will be obtained.

Site for the hospital to be secured from C.E. Riedel.

Dr. Buck has long been in the active practice of medicine and has wide experience. He was a strong supporter of the county hospital bond proposition and which was voted on two weeks ago. The defeat of the county hospital bond issue was one of the reasons he decided to establish a private hospital at Belle Glade.

Belle Glade was one of the few precincts which voted in a majority for the bond issue.

The rest of the story concerned itself with social news and nothing more was mentioned on the election or Dr. Buck.

But Dr. Buck was an interesting man, both from the standpoint of his civic and social activities, and in that he was

the first, and for years only, doctor in Belle Glade.

Dr. Buck had been in the military before moving to West Palm, serving in Mexico and France with the U.S. Army. In France, he was in charge of a 2,000-bed hospital of the 82nd Division.

When he moved to Belle Glade, the first thing he did after getting his hospital fixed up was to organize an American Legion Post, the first one in the Glades, and he served as its commander for two terms.

According to Lawrence Will in "From Swamp to Sugar Bowl," Dr. Buck would treat the ill no matter where and he didn't worry about their paying him as they should.

In the Army, Dr. Buck had been personally commended by General Black-jack Pershing for the administration of the base hospital and that administrative ability showed

through during the aftermath of the 1928 hurricane.

The first thing he did when the winds ceased to blow was to mobilize his Legion volunteers and order all the women and children to be evacuated.

He and the Legionnaires rounded up work crews and began the dismal tasks of cleaning up roads and gathering bodies. Few people were injured, and after treating those Dr. Buck supervised searches for bodies and survivors and directed workers from other towns, included Legionnaires and members of the Red Cross, National Guard and Coast Guard.

He was also active within the community, helping to revive the Community Sunday School and being elected president of it, helped start a Rotary Club, and became the chief of staff



DR. WILLIAM BUCK (center) was the main topic in a news story in 1928 reporting the birth of Belle Glade. On the left is deputy sheriff Clarence Everett and on the right, Henry White.

for the hospital in Paho- favorite organization was kee and when one was the Legion, and he was started in Belle Glade, elected Vice Commander became chief of staff of the district.

Dr. Buck died in 1949. He was an active and was a man missed by Shriner and Elk, but his the town.

Town Clerk...

Continued from Page 13

got 'round, and my collection of water bills was so much easier afterward. And I say again that I had no authority by the Mayor and the Commissioners to do what I did.

Then we floated bonds for the water system and the intake for the new system was opposite where the water tank is now, and we outgrew that and our intake finally went out to the lake.

I want to go back to the post office - how the post office got down to Belle Glade. You might be interested in that. When Fred Himmebright was running the post office on Rabbit Island he told Mr. Badger he was going to give up the post office there and if Mr. Badger wanted to try to get it down to Belle Glade, he would help him.

(Unfinished)
(Hugh J. Bratley)



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One of finest investments was Experiment Station

It has been said one of the best investments the Florida government ever made was to create the Everglades Experiment Station in Belle Glade.

Situated on 160 acres just east of Belle Glade, the Experiment Station has made much of the growth and development of agriculture possible by its research into various problems.

The station was founded June 14, 1921 with the passage of a provision that authorized an annual appropriation of \$10,000 "to be used exclusively for the establishment and conduct of the Everglades Experiment Station."

The first year didn't amount to much. Only \$34.49 of the \$10,000 was spent, mostly for travel.

Nothing was accomplished during 1922, or 1923 either, because of flooding; but in late De-

cember of 1923 George E. son, who still lives in Tedder was appointed Belle Glade. He was appointed foreman and began land clearing and the construction of a home and immediately on the chemical and physical proper-

The first crop grown at the station, corn, was destroyed by blackbirds. The second crop was ravaged by cutworms. The third simply turned yellow and died of unknown nutritional deficiencies.

The first three crops showed an Experiment Station could do some good in the Everglades. All the plantings of fruit trees except fig and guava showed nutritional deficiencies and these same problems caused the crops of rice and cotton to die as well.

In 1924 almost all the crops were wiped out by a flood which kept the station under water for 60 days. The first resident scientist was Dr. R.V. Allison resigned in 1937 but was back in 1944 and during the war years, there was a great expansion in staff, facilities and land area used for research.

Dr. A. Daane held the chairmanship of the station from 1933 until 1937 when he died. He was succeeded by Dr. J.R. Neller and in 1952, Dr. W.T. Forshee, Jr. took over the directorship from Dr. Allison.

Some of the earliest work done at the Experiment Station was in the field of plant nutrition. Early commercial crops grown in the area were cultivated on the "custard apple land" which was a muck soil containing high mineral concentrations.

The sawgrass land lacked some of the minerals plants needed and first efforts were devoted here. Copper, zinc and manganese applications on sawgrass land resulted in high crop yield and after these initial successes, research was carried out on the best fertilizer mixtures, sources and methods of application for various crops. Many of these crops have now become commercially important.

Perhaps because of the early days, the station also began to work on water control. Systems to remove water during floods and distribute it for adequate subirrigation were developed, including the mole system of field drainage.

Also in this area, research has been and is still being carried out on the effects of oxidation and compaction of peat soils, the effects of pump-



FLOODS WIPED OUT THE WORK being done at the Experiment Station in 1924. Water stood over the land for 60 days, killing all the crops that were being grown and not giving the insects and frost a fighting chance. Boardwalks were built to keep workers' feet dry.

ing, chemical control of work on sugarcane harvesters, planters and weeds and the effects of the weeds themselves, and many additional areas.

One of the most important of these was a survey of the Everglades Drainage District which included the Glade.

This formed the basis of 1931 the Station recommendations for land use and management and the basic data for designating the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, which recently changed names to the South Florida Water Management District.

Without this district and its attendant installations and management systems, agricultural and industrial expansion of the Everglades such as has occurred would not have taken place.

Not just any old variety of corn or other crops will grow in the Glades, and in response, the Station has worked at testing different varieties and breeding ones best suited for the climate here.

The research led to the creation of three new varieties of beans and one of celery. Sweet corn varieties were also developed and today, many if not most of the varieties of vegetable crops currently grown commercially were selected from trials conducted at the station.

Fiber plants, including kenaf and ramie, were investigated and the control of diseases, insects and nematodes was worked out for different crops.

Mechanization was also studied and is being studied today. Much research has been conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including

and other studies indicated an interrelationship of copper with molybdenum, cobalt and phosphorus. Safe levels of these toxic substances have been established and other cattle feeds developed, including studies of feed, as hypodermic and the op-

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Everglades Federal



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S OLDEST SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION

Water control makes city possible

Belle Glade would not have been possible without the control of water in the Everglades.

That's a flat statement, but one that is absolutely a fact. But it is hard to separate drainage in the Belle Glade area from water control of the entire Glades.

In the early 1920s, nature was kind to the Glades. These were dry years and no hurricanes passed over the region. Consequently, the state plan for land reclamation was initiated during stormless, floodless years, which was a mistake.

Bonds of the Everglades Drainage District were first sold in 1917 and work proceeded slowly. The St. Lucie Canal was opened in 1926, but before than in 1922, the first breaks in the dry period began to appear.

Heavy rain caused Lake Okeechobee to rise four and a half feet, drowning settlements between Clewiston and Moore Haven and causing the residents of Moore Haven to construct themselves a muck dike.

In 1925, Gov. John Martin committed the state to reclamation and the legislature approved the sale of \$14,500,000 in bonds for drainage.

Even so, drainage was slow and people became critical of the high water levels and slowness of the work.

Howard Sharp in the Everglades News of Canal Point in early 1926 was one of the most vocal. The lake level was at 19 feet, a level he considered dangerous.

In the newspaper above the flag, he constantly criticized state reclamation projects and warned in the summer of 1926 the waterways designed to drain the Everglades should be open at both ends quickly.

"The advocates of a high lake level take a terrible responsibility upon themselves," Sharp wrote. His words rang true, especially when a hurricane in September, 1926 swept across the lake, crumbling Moore Haven's muck dike and for drainage lay not with killing over 300 people.

Sharp wondered why the St. Lucie Canal had not been opened and why the locks of the Caloosahatchee River had been into drainage, the land values had risen to over

Engineer Fred C. Elliot, chief of the drainage district, came in for special comment and admitted later there were times when he felt his life in danger from the people of the Glades.

Drainage had actually begun in the Everglades 25 years before the "Moore Haven" storm and Gov. Martin blamed the lack of work on the lack of money.

So he managed to up the ante and have legislation passed to provide for the control of Lake Okeechobee by improvement of the old canals, such as the Hillsboro, North New River and Miami, and build a dike around the southern shore.

The cost of the project was estimated by Elliot to be \$20,000,000 but the Reviewing Board added five million to that.

Taxes for the drainage district in 1926 were estimated to total \$1.6 million and this money was to be used for interest and to retire the bonds.

But the new bonds were hard to sell. Through an agreement with the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, \$10,000,000 was allocated for purchase and another large corporation agreed to take another \$10 million.

Opposition grew quickly. The lower east coast of Florida favored "home rule" in the Everglades with subdrainage districts created to handle drainage matters.

All this created a legal tangle so great, no bonds were ever sold. Then the 1928 storm blew in, killed over 2,000 people on the lake's eastern shores, and wiped out the vegetable kingdom that had been built up.

This storm forced agreement among the many diverse factors, including the various subdrainage districts then in operation, that control of Lake Okeechobee was the key to successful drainage of the Glades.

The federal government was called upon and wrote. His words rang true, especially when a hurricane in September, 1926 swept across the lake, crumbling Moore Haven's muck dike and for drainage lay not with killing over 300 people.

Sharp wondered why the St. Lucie Canal had not been opened and why the locks of the Caloosahatchee River had been into drainage, the land values had risen to over

Engineer Fred C. Elliot, chief of the drainage district, came in for special comment and admitted later there were times when he felt his life in danger from the people of the Glades.

\$300 million. The U.S. Corps of Engineers was called in and reviewed the situation. Its recommendation was that a levee be built around the lake to contain its waters.

During hearings in 1929, the federal government pointed out Florida apparently had no intentions of contributing to flood protection and control. Elliot noted Florida had never done so, since bonds and land sales had paid for the Everglades Drainage District and no taxes had been levied to drain the Glades.

But Florida was the single largest landowner in the region and Gov. Martin had to admit most Florida residents, who lived in Northern Florida, were against the drainage of the Glades.

This was quickly picked up in the Glades and a great controversy resulted from the testimony during the hearing of Florida Attorney General Fred Davis. He said during testimony he had heard people should not be allowed to settle in the Everglades.

After a great many proposals and counter-proposals, some very heated, the federal government finally settled on a plan in 1930. But it wasn't a plan of flood control because Congressional policy then didn't allow for projects of that sort.

It became a policy of navigation...the creation of a navigable waterway across South Florida via the Caloosahatchee River Lake Okeechobee and then finally finished St. Lucie Canal.

Florida was at first to commit \$2 million of the project but this was later reduced to \$500,000.

The legislature created the Okeechobee Flood Control District in late 1929 overseeing an area of 12,000 square miles, including most of the Florida land area south of the north shore of Lake Okeechobee.

Active work on the levee was begun in November, 1930 with the first work being done between Clewiston and the Miami Canal.

In 1932, work has progressed around the Belle Glade side and was moving rapidly, meeting construction crews coming down from Port Mayaca.

With a great deal of fanfare, the Cross-State

Waterway was opened on March 22, 1937 and within a month, it was said over 3,000 boats had made use of the waterway.

Perhaps more importantly, the construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike spurred growth in communities around the lake.

In 1930, Belle Glade's population was only 926. By 1945, this had risen to 1,800. Likewise, Pahokee doubled its population along with Clewiston.

In addition to the levee, railroads had been expanded in the area and by 1930, the entire eastern and southern sides of the lake were served by rail.

The Herbert Hoover Dike cost almost double its early estimates. Its final tally was \$19,145,859.89 on the original construction of which the drainage district contributed \$500,000 and added another \$250,000 in land acquisition.

In reaching back farther, we find the first drainage plans on Lake Okeechobee took place in 1881 when Harold Disston dredged the Three Mile Canal between Lake Okeechobee and Lake Hickpochee near Moore Haven.

J.M. Kreamer, for whom Kreamer Island is named, had investigated drainage work in 1889 but nothing had been done.

N.B. Broward ran on a governor's ticket to "drain the Glades" in 1904 and won by 714 votes. Broward conducted an inspection trip in 1905 and the results were the creation of 740 miles of inland waterway that would "prevent the lake from spilling over its shores." Broward estimated 6,000,000 acres would be drained in this manner.

After still more battles and increased opposition from various groups who wished to have a finger in the pie, the North New River Canal was started in 1906. The legislature wrote a new law in 1907 creating the Okeechobee Drainage District, which in turn proposed seven canals leading from Lake Okeechobee. This was followed by the digging of the Hillsboro and the Miami Canals.

The West Palm Beach Canal was begun next and the St. Lucie after that. The Caloosahatchee

Anniversary Section "B" Issue

had already been improved.

In total, the digging of the canals cost \$24,650,000.

The Central and South Florida Flood Control District became the dominant force in water control in the Everglades in 1949, when an arrangement was worked out with the federal government for the state to assume responsibility for control of the system of waterways in force.

In January of last year, the FCD's name was changed to the South Florida Water Management District, more accurately reflecting the responsibility of the agency as flooding is no longer of serious consequence in the Everglades.

Today, this agency administers a 16-county area containing over 1,400 miles of canals and ditches along with 125 water control structures and 15 pumping stations capable of moving over 14,000,000 gallons of water per minute.

The Corps of Engineers, headquartered in Clewiston, has the responsibility of overseeing the operation of the Cross Florida Waterway.

An extreme test of the ability of the Herbert Hoover Dike to control

flood waters occurred in 1949, when a hurricane of great intensity aimed itself squarely at the Belle Glade area.

Despite eight hours of high wind tides and constant buffeting, the dike held back the flood. When it was all over, over 1,400 feet of levee had been eaten a third of the way through by wave action between Belle Glade and Lake Harbor, but even so, engineers estimated it could have contained the waters for another 16 hours.

Today, new controversies have erupted over water control. The back-pumping of waters from agricultural areas of the Glades, which is part of the overall water control plan, is being challenged as detrimental to water quality in Lake Okeechobee.

Where this will end, nobody really knows yet, but it is of vital concern to the communities around the lake.

It is also interesting to note a proposal made back in the early 1930s, a plan that called for a bulkhead to be constructed across the southern portion of the lake to help prevent high wind tides, has been talked about once more, not for flood control but to provide a "mixing zone" of waters.



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Everglades Federal county's oldest

When it first began in 1933, it is doubtful people felt Everglades Federal Savings and Loan Association would become what it is today.

With assets of \$2,059

and the main office consisting of a desk occupied "part-time" by Hugh J. Bratley inside the real estate building owned by C.E. Reidel, those early years could not have impressed anyone other than a local citizen who up until that time, had no place within the city to put his spare cash other than a tin can in the ground.

Everglades Federal was the first savings and loan association founded in Palm Beach County and only the eighth in all of Florida. When it was chartered, only 47 others across the country were in existence.

Reidel was the prime mover behind the new institution and helped in other ways as well. For instance, he served as president at no pay and even went so far as to rent "desk space" to Everglades Federal for only \$1 per year.

While Reidel was the leader, nine other citizens were instrumental in helping to found Everglades Federal. They were Bratley, Kenneth Lutz, H.D. Beck, L.C. Betzner, Frank Franz, W.G. Stang, C.M. Hermonson, and A.E. Kirckman.

Bratley, who served as town clerk for five years and was in the insurance business as well, became

the loan officer, teller, bookkeeper, stenographer, director and secretary. And as if that wasn't enough, he was appointed treasurer a year later.

The first officers of the newly-formed institution were Riedel, president; Bratley, secretary; Lutz, treasurer; Franz, first vice president; Stang, second vice president; and Betzner, third vice president.

In the first year of operations, only Bratley was a paid employee, making the grand sum of \$2.50 per week for holding down the desk.

In 1934, when assets had grown to \$11,209.19, Bratley got a raise and the directors began to receive \$2 for each meeting they attended.

From these humble beginnings, Everglades Federal began to grow. For the first 17 years, it remained in the Riedel Real Estate office on the corner of Main and First Street, a building that was torn down only recently.

In 1950, however, things had become too crowded in the little building and Everglades Federal moved. The new building was located on the corner of Avenue B and Second Street and provided a great deal of growing room.

pointed president, a position he holds today.

There are presently 37 full-time people working at the three offices of the local institution.

Officers and directors include Trammel, president; Thomas H. Wilkin, vice president and chief loan officer; Cranford, vice president and Clewiston branch manager; James E. Leeman, vice president and controller; Echo Painter, vice president and secretary; and Ethel M. Bair, treasurer.

The directors are Robert Apelgren, chairman of the board and William Plumer, vice chairman; Robert Hooker, Robert Mathews, Jr., William Rhodes, B.A. Roemar, and Harry T. Vaughn, Jr. Two men hold the title of director emeriti. They are James A. Ball, Jr. and Claude L. Shirley, Sr.

Methodists organize first church services

The Methodists organized the first church services in Belle Glade with the first minister, Rev. E.L. Housley, conducting his service in a church on the banks of the Hillsboro Canal about where Glades Drugs parking lot is.

The building served until 1928 when it was destroyed by the hurricane and its lumber used to build coffins for the dead.

Rev. W.J. Thomas, who became the minister in 1925, was one of the town's leading citizens until 1928, serving as president of the Board of Trade, which preceded the Chamber of Commerce, and other groups as well.

When the hurricane of 1928 struck, Rev. John R. Hoch was the minister and following the storm, a committee was formed to see what could be done to rebuild.

The Community church committee was repre-

sented by Dr. W.J. Buck of the Everglades' Men's Class, R.A. Daane, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Kidder, G.I. (Dad) Evans, and Hubie Boree.



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Woman's Club started in 1927

An unofficial and rather personal history as presented by Mrs. Bert Roemer at the Golden Anniversary Luncheon March 12, 1977. A few additions and changes have been made since that date.]

Let us begin, via decades, our long journey down Memory Lane. When did it all begin?

The Twenties

(Lawrence Will and our first President, interchangeably, tell of our earliest days. Most of the words are their own.)

To some present, Etta Brown (Mrs. J. F. Browne) is just a name, but to those who knew her well, she was a most friendly and dynamic personality. One who spearheaded many improvements in what was then a wilderness outpost (a very soggy one).

Our wide spot in the road, a sawgrass, needed many things done to improve the spot. There was no electricity except in one hotel — and that was furnished by batteries; one phone (also in the hotel), no local doctor. We still got to South Bay by boat or over a muck trail over the mounds.

The railroad had just reached Belle Glade and it was quite a thrill to hear the first whistle blow.

Mr. Will's freight boat passed Etta's house four times a week. She lived in a FRAME house (not one of roofing paper tacked to boards) with floors of WOOD (not hard-packed muck) with real GLASS windows instead of cheesecloth netting.

Yet, she told Mr. Will, "For the first six months, I cried my eyes out!"

But Etta didn't "set down, sulk and surrender." She persuaded some men to petition the school board in West Palm Beach for a school here. When the schoolhouse lumber was unloaded on the canal bank, men carried it on their backs to the selected site.

A few years later, she decided there should be some sort of social organization in the town. In March, 1927, 10 or 12 women met and discussed organizing a civic club — a Woman's Club was the decision.

Some of the members in the '20s: Ellen Besent, Mary Eggleston, Pearl Parker, Gertrude

Raulerson (who served as secretary), and Mrs. Fon Cherry.

OUR FIRST PROJECT

— to get water at the schoolhouse so the children could at least wash their hands. Drinking water had to be carried along with lunch from home. We persuaded the school board to drive a shallow well and put in a pump — also to put up a rain tank for drinking water.

There was one church (the Old Village Church — Methodist) and one schoolhouse where we met to organize. The church was a general meeting place, and our club met there at times — and we met in our homes. The City was incorporated in that church.

The school was located in what is now McDonald Park, near the corner of Main and Avenue E.

Mrs. Pace was presiding in September, '28, when there came an "Act of God." We lost our charter and all Club records in the hurricane and accompanying flood. Homes floated away, thousands drowned.

Many of the Woman's Club members moved away. Four months later, in January, '29, we gathered together as many members as we could find and with some new ones, we bravely started all over again, meeting in a recreation center furnished by a fund raised by workers of the Victor Talking Machine Company.

The school, water tank and all, had been washed away in the flood; the school board built a new school in a different location. An early pioneer suggested that the Woman's Club sponsor a movement to obtain two or three acres (where the City park is located) from the school board.

The Woman's Club circulated petitions; the men always backed up any movement that was started, cooperated in every way. Together, we pulled all of the wires we possibly could and we finally persuaded the school board to deed the acres to the City.

Later the City bought six more acres and that was the start of the City park, now McDonald Park.

The Thirties

Meetings were still in the homes or the community church. Etta Browne got busy again

and helped raise money for a clubhouse to be built on the old schoolhouse lot. There was a dire need for a "public" meeting place.

In the early '30s a local lumber dealer furnished \$170 worth of materials to start the building. There were benefit dinners and various projects by civic groups — there were private donations.

The deed went to the Woman's Club and the Belle Glade Garden Club, and the building was properly called "The Community Clubhouse." But the two clubs rented it out for a small fee and the money was put in the Everglades Federal. The Lions and the Rotary Clubs held meetings there. Many churches in Belle Glade started in that building. Politicians spoke; there were showers, weddings and banquets.

The City Library started and operated in the Clubhouse for many years. Mrs. Browne served as librarian from its start until '48. Her daughter would visit occasionally, and being in library work, she would help her mother by showing her how to do things properly, such as cataloging.

The Woman's Club decided to assist the library in "getting on its feet." Frances Ball tells us that there were pot luck lunches and library rallies. By the fall of '39 our membership had swelled to 66! Listen to some of the voices: Pauline Hill Boydston, Mrs. Quentin Starling, Bea Fleming, Mrs. H.A. Stoltenberg (Helen Spooner's mom), Thelma Stevens, Eva Townsend, Mrs. J.O. Jameson, Lilly Holloway, Fay Greer, Edith Forshoe, Arthur Lee Maynard, Ila Darden, Mrs. Jack Keese, Mrs. Hand Stein, Eunice Chamblee, Martha Parker, Neva Kidder, Mrs. John Kirk, Mrs. George Tedder, Mrs. M.M. Sabiston, and YES, she was a member — Mrs. H.H. Wedgworth.

The Forties

The first half of the 40s — war years. Good timing — in November, '41, the program read "Defense." Meetings were held for awhile at night, for many of the young women worked. A program on "The Red Cross." Many hands were kept busy working with that organization, and much knitting was done.

Some members entertained in their homes the English cadets from the air base west of Clewiston. To give them a little "touch of family," the cadets would be picked up at the Legion hall on Saturday, and would be returned there on Sunday.

Membership: in the fall of '49, 113 names appeared. The little Club-Beach County Hospital Board. Procurement was finally in the hands of citizens' committee. With less than a year, Dr. Club in '43 '44, but evidently it was consumed by the Seniors the next year. Theo and Edie Van Landingham were on the list, and Jean McWhorter.

Some Names to Remember: Mrs. Roy Bair, Ruby Bailey, Mrs. Herman Baxt, Selma Bamford, Mrs. Hugh Bratley, Ann Pipes, Mrs. Tom Watson (Katherine), Susan Connell, Mrs. William J. Buck, Mrs. Ida Hardy.

Edna Hayman, Libby Hobson, Margaret Earwood, Mrs. Peter Scuran, Mrs. S.A. Roberts, Mae Taylor and Mrs. O.K. Jones

The Fifties

The early '50s found Belle Glade in dire need of another doctor. With Mrs. Thiebaud as our spearhead, we contacted the Southwestern Palm Beach County Hospital Board. Procurement was finally in the hands of citizens' committee. With less than a year, Dr. Club in '43 '44, but evidently it was consumed by the Seniors the next year. Theo and Edie Van Landingham were on the list, and Jean McWhorter.

There was a Junior Club in '43 '44, but evidently it was consumed by the Seniors the next year. Theo and Edie Van Landingham were on the list, and Jean McWhorter.

Some Names to Remember: Mrs. Roy Bair, Ruby Bailey, Mrs. Herman Baxt, Selma Bamford, Mrs. Hugh Bratley, Ann Pipes, Mrs. Tom Watson (Katherine), Susan Connell, Mrs. William J. Buck, Mrs. Ida Hardy.

Bee Wood and the first Heart Sunday. How we worked!

One year we voted twenty dollars a month to the library for needed juvenile books; and we voted to help purchase children's library furniture. (Near the decade's

end, the library moved into its new "renovated" home near the police station. We aided mightily in the moving process — and we were to do so again in the '60s.)

The Sixties

The new Civic Center was dedicated September 27, 1961. The Lions Club had become the helmsmen in securing funds necessary to satisfy the City. We contributed \$1,200, which was used in furnishing the kitchen.

Later, we undertook a "lined" drapery project so that films, etc. could be shown in the Center. For \$120 we "adopted" Shirley Mouse, a 16-year-old Cherokee girl.

Our College Scholarship Fund began as an aid to one (or more) deserving young girls. How many times do I cross a certain threshold in our town, and say "unbelievable!" Our Community Improvement

Continued on Page 4

Belle Glade has made its mark!



Fifty years of progress show the ability of Belle Glade and neighboring communities to work and prosper together.

Happy Birthday, Belle Glade

Talisman Sugar Corporation

Founded in 1962

U.S. Hwy 27

Belle Glade

Woman's Club...

Continued from page 3
Program (CIP) project for '66 - '68 was an attempt to bring into existence a "better" library. The culmination of this effort was not only a better library - it was one of the best possible for such a community. This time, we were the organizational spearhead and the spear.

It all began in '65 when Mrs. Jim (Jackie) Winchester (we know her as Skippy), headed a Library Steering Committee which surveyed the area concerning the need for a new library.

Our committee worked in close harmony with Library Board Chairman Mary Orsenigo; she, in turn, worked closely with board member Dolly Hand. These two, in their many interchanges with City Manager Tevis Hugely, found the City's representative most cooperative.

The Seventies

As yet, I can sense the glow, the feeling of satisfaction that came at the close of a certain day in May, '76. Forty-nine years old, and we were deepending our mark in Belle Glade's history.

But first, "other" days and other occasions.

The CIP Committee, appointed by President Miller in 1970, recommended an appropriate memorial to our first president, which would be placed in the Municipal Library. The committee: Chairman Mary Orsenigo, Marie Bregger, Frances Ball and Ruby Jones.

They selected a 8' x 4' tile mural created by Kay Pancoast, a professional ceramist from Coral Gables. The mural would depict the agriculture of Belle Glade, and would cost approximately \$1,000.

CIP Efforts - '72-'74:
Three projects were undertaken.

Project Number One:
to establish ambulance service for the western part of Palm Beach County on a volunteer basis. We were without service, the Juniors joined us as spearheads and many things were done, with the press always giving good coverage. Some of our citizens worked with our joint committee. Very important, there was the establishment of an American Red Cross Advanced Class; also, a Defensive Driving Course. (People who ride the ambulance must have specialized training.)
After Terry Moss

opened his ambulance service, our clubs disbanded their joint committee. Moss soon found that he needed a subsidy of at least \$1,500 a month to stay in business.

A citizens' committee was formed; Ruth Wedgworth, our President, was elected spokesman. The City and the Hospital Board were requested to share the necessary subsidy fund. Both agreed to do so; the City of South Bay also contributed to the subsidy.

Then the committee, headed by Ruth, met with County Commissioners and requested that they provide a portion of the needed fund. They did so.

We were to be assured of ambulance service for at least a year.

Project Number Two:
To aid in the establishing of a local Mental Health Center. Two of our Club members were asked to serve on a citizens' committee. After a building had been found to house the local center, furnishings were needed. The \$350 which we contributed was used in furnishing the waiting room. An oil painting and the draperies were donated.

Project Number Three:
To contribute to the new West Exceptional Child Education Center. We were asked to decorate the Infirmary (or Clinic). We did so and it was soon used by Mrs. Rose Kennedy as she waited to make her dedication speech. (It was said that she commented on the room's warmth.)



THE PACKING HOUSE DISTRICT of Belle Glade set a new record for shipping activity April 27, 1933 with the heaviest single day's loading of beans aboard rail cars.

Citizens fight Ft. Lauderdale

The Belle Glade area, led in battle by Dr. T.E. Will, almost went to war in 1930 with Ft. Lauderdale.

Dr. Will, the father of Lawrence Will, called a meeting of angry townspeople to protest the damming of the North New River Canal just north of Ft. Lauderdale.

Folks in the hamlet of Ft. Lauderdale claimed water rushing from Lake Okeechobee was drowning them out.

On the other hand, folks in Belle Glade were claiming water being dammed up was backing up, ruining their fields.

They noted a good system of locks was established on the canal and it would be beneficial to all

if water could be released in quantities that would not harm Ft. Lauderdale's agriculture but Belle Glade had made plans to "blow sky high" the dam.

Blackbirds were a big problem

Along with the hundreds of plights to agriculture was one in the 1950s that couldn't be solved with scarecrows. Blackbirds...thousands of blackbirds filled the sky and stripped growing corn off the plants.

The problem became so bad that the Everglades CoOp was forced to purchase 95,500 rounds of 12-gauge shotgun ammunition for use against the birds and put employees and volunteers to banging away.

The ammunition was purchased from Jack Royal, owner of the Western Auto Associate Store in Belle Glade and was until that time the largest-ever sale of shotgun ammunition in the Glades.

The shotguns were the last-ditch measure. Before that, airplanes and vehicles had been used to trying to run the birds from the fields and they had failed.

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April 6, 1978, 50th ANNIVERSARY—5B

Happy "50th" Birthday

to the brave men, women and children who pioneered this area, undergoing grave hardships such as the 1928 hurricane which took the lives of over 2,500 residents. Through their faith, hard work and perserverance this area is now one of the most promising in our great nation.

from the staff &
management of

United States Sugar Corporation





THE HERBERT HOOVER DIKE was built in the early 1930s as part of the Cross-Florida Waterway sponsored for navigation by the Federal Government. At that time, no provisions had been made for flood control, and the only way it could be built was a part of a navigational project. This shot is of a dragline working on the dike with a bean field in the foreground. It was taken in 1934.

Family ties important

Family ties have always played a major role in the growth and development of Belle Glade.

While some of the family members have moved, others have stayed and prospered. Some of the early families no longer live in the area, but many

remain.

Some, but by no means all, who came and stayed included the Barfields, Feers, Davises, Kirchmans, Royals, Thomases, Wedgworths, Schoenfelds, Schleeters and others.

Perhaps typical of the family groups who have

remained in Belle Glade are the Steins.

Hans Stein, the family's founder, was an immigrant from Latvia, Russia who moved with his parents to America. They went first to Wisconsin and then, 35 years later, found himself the locktender of the Hillsboro Canal at Chosen in 1915.

He held that job for years, then began to branch out. Hans died of blood poisoning in 1932 from an injury to his foot, but his sons, Hans, Jr. and Fritz, continued to carry on his farming operations.

Hans also had two daughters, Emi Stein and Mrs. Aleese Cherry (now Mrs. Aleese Lang).

Fritz Stein, Sr. became a well-known vegetable and cattle agriculturalist and when he died in 1957, the family's operations passed on to his son, Fritz, Jr.

In his turn, Fritz, Jr. continued to produce vegetables and cattle and today has better than 3,000 acres under cultivation and ranching in Palm Beach and Highlands Counties.

Fritz, Jr. was one of the founders of Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida and is presently a director. Today, the family grows no more vegetables, concentrating on sugarcane in the Glades and cattle in Highlands County.

Mrs. Lang, Fritz, Jr.'s wife, still lives in Chosen in the house that was built before the 1928 storm and weathered it.

Era comes to end when Sharp quits

The end of an era occurred in January, 1929, when the sale of the Everglades News was announced by editor/publisher Howard Sharp.

The paper was incorporated into one started in Pahokee and was called the Pahokee News and Philosophy. Charles

R. Barfield became the new editor.

Sharp also announced he was getting out of the job printing business. In a story on the front page, he said he was retiring. "Quitting work," as he put it, because he didn't want to work anymore, had enough set back for a rainy day, had no more political ambitions (he had served the district in the Florida House of Representatives) and furthermore, had no wife to advance into society.

The upshot was that the News and Philosophy became a much more Pahokee-Canal Point oriented newspaper and there was much less Belle Glade news carried. Only occasionally would a Belle Glade story be found in the early issues of the News Philosophy. Sharp's Everglades News had been the first truly lake oriented paper, carrying news of each and every community around the lake and spiced with his comments.

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Happy "50th" Birthday..

We knew you could do it!



We're proud and happy

to be taking part in the growth and progress of Belle Glade.

Congratulations!

Billy Rogers Farms

Hwy 27 — Belle Glade

Agriculture base of city economy

Belle Glade has been unique in that so many different types of crops have been grown in the surrounding area.

The rich black muck soil, along with a year-round growing season and ample rainfall, tends to make the area one of the most varied, from an agricultural standpoint, in the world.

The city's economy has always been directly dependent upon agriculture and nothing has changed today.

When the city was young, beans were the staple agricultural commodity. During the 1950s beans were overtaken by the cattle industry and today sugarcane is the crop most often grown, although there are others of great importance.

No clear-cut "economic periods" exist. Farmers didn't simply abandon beans for cattle nor cattle for cane. But in their times, these industries employed more people and contributed more cash flow than any other.

A report in the Belle Glade Herald in 1952 listed 18 different varieties of vegetables being grown in "carload" quantities. During that harvest season, 25,700 railway cars were shipped from Belle Glade.

The largest crop was corn and it was worth \$5,600,000 to the Belle Glade economy. Next came celery at \$6,225,000, beans at \$3,530,000 and cabbage at \$2,210,000. Of lesser importance were escarole, radishes, potatoes, chicory, peppers, chili, collards, tomatoes, lettuce, endive, turnips, turnip greens and cucumbers.

In addition to vegetables, the livestock market was doing a booming business. The market opened in 1949 and in 1952, it had grown to the point where one took in an average of \$11,760 per hour of operation.

Livestock auctions were held every Monday and the manager was George Young.

Several local agriculturalists also tried dairying for awhile and a few were raising hogs, which has always been of importance in the Glades.

In the transition period of the early '50s, sugarcane was of much less importance. One mill, Okeelanta, produced 7,245 tons of raw sugar from 93,378 tons of cane planted on just over 3,000 acres.

Other crops have been grown as well. In the late '20s, bananas were im-

portant to a certain extent and a banana plantation was created east of Belle Glade. This soon fizzled out, though many people in Belle Glade still raise "finger banana" for their own personal use.

Two fiber plants were important during the '50s. Rame was grown in commercial quantities and kenaf was also undergoing investigation and use.

Near Canal Point a plant was built for decortifying rame and kenaf for use in jute bags, burlap, etc. The mill at one time employed 140 people with an annual payroll of \$500,000.

But rame and kenaf died out as important sources of income and were replaced by others.

In addition to these crops, rice was once harvested on close to 2,000 acres of Glades land. Roe Steele, one of the growers of rice who still makes his home in the Glades, said the problem with that crop was that it simply wouldn't make a head and the experiment failed.

Still another crop important to Belle Glade's economy is sod. On several ranches in the area, sod contributes many millions, though the sod industry has been declining in the past few years.

Last year, sod sales amounted to \$9,258,499, down almost \$7 million from four years ago.

It is easy, when looking back over the area's economic periods, to note the different transitional stages.

Squatters and farmers in the '20s and '30s and up through the '40s had been well satisfied with their staple bean crops. But in the early 1950s, beans were falling from favor rapidly.

So rapidly, in fact, that in 1951, at a Rotary Club meeting in Belle Glade, the agricultural agent heard Rotary members say the "bean business is the most viciously undermining factor of our economy."

Members went on to say it must be eliminated for the good of the community. This way, they said, a crop that "completely demoralizes all other agricultural products of the economy and identified ends up with the profits in the hands of labor and mill, branching out from the growers left with its old Clewiston offices, overdue notes at the

bank, seed and supply houses."

In 1960, it was reported the livestock auction held each week was bringing in an average of \$66,809.36 in slaughter calves alone. At the end of the June, 1960 harvest season, the total dollar amount for Glades produce was put at \$60 million. The most valuable crop was sweet corn with celery next. Radishes were also important, ranked third with a total volume of over \$1,750,000.

But 1960 was also a year of transition from the healthy cattle economy to sugarcane. Vegetables were also affected in the transition.

In July of that year, over 100 vegetable and cattle growers assembled and banded into the Glades Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative.

The reason was that before, sugar had been sharply "quoted" by the federal government as most sugar was being imported from Cuba. In 1959 the Communist government of Fidel Castro took over that island and the United States embargoed the sugar imports.

At the same time it was realized domestic sugar production would have to be turned loose and the dawn of sugar as the top economic crop was born.

Very happily, Congressman Paul G. Rogers introduced a new sugar bill designed to promote the progressive expansion of the growth of a domestic sugar industry.

Added impetus was given to the production of sugarcane by a freeze followed by rain which amounted to a disaster for the vegetable industry. And on top of that, Hurricane Donna did even more damage.

The results were that thousands of acres that had once been in vegetable or cattle production were quickly shifted over to sugarcane. In at least one instance, 4,000 acres that the year before had been grown in cane in the fall of 1960.

Millions upon millions were being spent on land planting and clearing as well as on new grinding and refining equipment. This transitional period was readily seen and established a new USSC established a new

at Bryant. The mill was

estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$12,000,000 and a specially-made silver shovel was used in the groundbreaking ceremony.

In the meantime, Glades Co-Op's plans were moving ahead with an \$11 million mill capable of handling 750,000 tons of cane over a 150-day harvest season.

In all, the Co-Op was expecting to spend between \$14 and \$15 million in land and facilities and to grow cane on 18-20,000 acres of land.

The total figures projected in 1961 wound up with an estimate that the Glades sugar industry would attract an additional 8-10,000 people to provide the skilled and unskilled labor.

Today, the sugar industry is the largest in the Glades and people from Belle Glade find jobs in the mills that dot the area or in the growing and harvesting of sugarcane.

Total value of the sugarcane crop reached a high point in 1974 when prices were at an all-time high. Sales amounted to \$480,054,409 that banner year for the local mills, effectively dwarfing all other agricultural products.

In the latest year, sugarcane accounted for \$198,814,669.

Today, the single largest vegetable crop, in dollar value, is celery, which last year amounted to \$30,268,409. Following closely behind was corn at over \$22 million for both white and yellow and other crops of commercial importance included beans, cabbage, carrots, Chinese cabbage, endive, escarole, Bibb, Boston, leaf and Iceburg, and Romaine lettuce, parsley and radishes.

In the "over ten million" figures were radishes at \$11,541,299 and the four varieties of lettuce, when lumped together.

The Glades portion of Palm Beach County now plants and harvests 242,445 acres of sugarcane and last year produced 786,211 tons of sugar, 67,442,530 gallons of molasses, along with other products.

Total agricultural income for the Glades portion of Palm Beach County amounted to a staggering \$1.12 billion.

In comparison, the value of agriculture to the economy in 1929 was only \$1,955,827 and the highest point was in 1975 when the agricultural economy produced \$679,584,026 in income.

It's a small wonder today's retail businessman follows the weather, rainfall and commodities market as closely as the largest farmer...and some estimate as much as 90 percent of their business is directly attributable to agriculture.



**Farming
A
vital
part
of
Belle
Glade
growth**

Happy Birthday Belle Glade!

**We are proud of our fine
community - made strong
by free enterprise, "the
American Way"**

Closter Farms

— Since 1961 —

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Belle Glade

Sugar industry came to Belle Glade

"for the finest
in children's apparel"



**Kim & Tim's
Korner**

431 S.E. 2nd Street
Belle Glade

While the Glades' sugar industry goes way back, even before Belle Glade was founded, it did not truly get its start in this immediate area until the 1960s.

It all began when area farmers began to make plans to capture at least part of the growing domestic demand for sugar and was greatly aided when Fidel Castro assumed control of Cuba and declared his feelings for communism. Until that time, large quantities of sugar were imported into the United States from Cuba.

Domestic sugar producers, mostly concentrated in Louisiana, were not meeting the sugar quota and Glades farmers felt they could gather in increased allocations.

Years before, Belle Glade residents had tried to build a sugar mill, but nothing had become of it. Okeelanta had a mill in operation, but it was of

small scale.

The problem was sugar allocations. The Department of Agriculture had continued to allocate the majority of sugar to be grown to the Cubans.

When Castro took over Cuba in 1959, things began to change rapidly.

It became clear an embargo would be placed on Cuban sugar imports and American farmers would increase sugar allocations.

As early as 1940, there had been a move in Belle Glade to build a sugar mill. At that time, vegetable and bean prices fluctuated sharply and many farmers were looking for a stable crop. Sugar seemed to be such a crop.

Howard Haney called a meeting in 1940 of interested growers to discuss the sugar situation.

The meeting was well attended in the old City Hall and the results were the formation of a cooperative. Haney was elected chairman and other officers were James Ball, John L. Griffin, E.F. Stumpf, G.E. Therry and G. Bernie Benschel.

Articles of incorporation were signed on April 3, 1941 with Haney elected the president. Ruth Wedgworth the secretary/treasurer, and Sam Fleming, vice president. On the board of directors along with the officers were L.A. LeFils and A.N. Kennedy.

Charter members included Luther Jones, Ernest Van Landingham, Casper Van Landingham, Lorin Rapi, Jarrospm Raoul, and M.R. Hufty.

Over 50,000 acres were pledged for planting but the entire thing fell through, perhaps in large measure because of the beginning of World War II and the skyrocketing prices for vegetables and beans.

About the same time, another effort to secure a mill in the area was also being carried out, this one by Clarence R. Bitting, president of United States Sugar Corporation.

In a meeting July 18, 1960 the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida was formally launched. Sixteen people attended the meeting, mostly vegetable shippers and growers.

It soon became apparent that in order to finance a sugar mill, a large number of farmers still left the young co-op would have to pool their resources and the initial

membership was open to anyone in the area who was a "bona fide" agriculturalist.

Initially, 75 interested farmers met together as members of the cooperative and elected Robert Apelgren president, George Wedgworth vice president, Walter Kautz secretary-treasurer, and Terry Gibson, assistant secretary.

Seven members were named to the board of directors, including Lewis Friend, Robert Apelgren and George Wedgworth; Inman Weeks, Walter Hull, Walter Katuz, and Roy Vandergrift, Sr.

The membership committee was composed of Joe Friedheim, Walter Kautz, Joe Tom Boynton, Lewis Friend and George Wedgworth.

Work began immediately on securing a sugar quota for the proposed mill with officers and directors, along with members, staying in constant contact with Congressmen and Senators from the state and others who could help in getting a quota.

A great deal of concern was also expressed over the re-writing of the Sugar Act and how the new coop should be represented before committees responsible for writing it.

Along with all this, an agent from the Canal Point Experiment Station told the members his group was hard at work developing cold-resistant varieties of cane that could be grown away from Lake Okeechobee on "colder" land.

In November, the board of directors secured a contract with Dr. Arthur Keller, sugar consultant with the University of Louisiana, to conduct a feasibility study of a 3,000-ton per day mill which could be expanded to 5,000 tons per day.

The cost of the study was raised by assessing each grower 30 cents per ton based on the tonnage he anticipated raising.

Financing of the mill was carried out in an unusual manner. After securing \$8.4 million in loans from the Columbia Bank for Cooperatives and securing agreements from contractors and suppliers, along with the engineer, to defer payment of over \$1 million, along with \$3.5 million raised from the membership, a still left the young co-op \$2 million short on necessary funds.

The money was secured on a secondary loan from Czarnikow-Rionda, a New York based sugar trading corporation which was seeking sugar investments after losing their Cuban business.

The same year, two other mills were under construction. USSC's Bryant mill at Canal Point was being built and Florida Sugar Company received their first shipments of mill equipment in November.

It was noted Florida Sugar had taken around 2,400 acres out of vegetable and cattle production and was planting it in cane at the rate of 42 acres per day. Claude Wiley had been appointed general manager and said he expected the mill to add \$2.5 million yearly to the area's economy.

Okeelanta was also expanding, having just started grinding for that season with a new goal of 330,000 tons. The mill capacity had been increased 3,600 tons per day and the acreage from 7,350 the past year to over 10,000.

John Boy, president of USSC, told the Belle Glade Rotarians his company was supporting increased quotas and told them he welcomed and would help the new cooperative.

Congressman Paul Rogers, in still another Rotary speech, told of the sugar legislation he had introduced which would grant to Florida and the rest of the country the 45% of the foreign quotas on sugar. This would allow for "substantial" expansion of the entire industry.

In a front page editorial in January, 1961, Belle Glade Herald publisher Luther Jones predicted the population of the Glades would be boosted 10,000 and an annual payroll of \$6 million infused into the area because of the situation with sugar.

A great deal of land was also changing hands. One issue of the Herald noted 19 parcels totaling 35,000 acres had been sold for \$6,252,000. Two of these parcels, totaling over 25,000 acres, were for the purpose of growing cane for two additional mills. One of these mills became Osceola Sugar.

Shortly afterwards, the presidency of the cooperative changed, with Wedgworth assuming the

**Bouquets
to
Belle
Glade!**



**Happy Birthday,
Belle Glade**

from the

**Florida Sugar
Cane League**

Serving Sugar Cane Growers and
Raw Sugar Producers Since 1964

Glade in early 60s

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top position, an office he has held ever since.

Construction of the mill began in the summer of 1961 with a groundbreaking ceremony attended by top legislators and representatives of the sugar industry.

Of the "new" mills, Osceola was the first to begin grinding operations in December of 1961.

The new sugar act passed in 1962 and gave Glades growers almost everything they wanted, allowing a 35% expansion of the industry's old quota but perhaps more importantly, allowing the domestic sugar industry 65% of all increases in domestic sugar consumption.

Grinding at the new co-operative mill first began on Monday, November 19, 1962 with cane from the fields of Hayes and Quackenbush the first to be processed. In all, only 28 months had elapsed from the start of the project to the first grinding.

But a little bad news came mixed with the good. Florida's first sugar strike was underway when workers struck Florida Sugar Company's mill outside Belle Glade.

Another strike soon afterwards affected the co-operative...not a strike by mill or agricultural employees, but one by Florida East Coast Railway employees. Most sugar had been shipped by rail, but instead of slowing production, mill managers decided to continue and to store the processed sugar in the new warehouses and, to ship from Lake Harbor on the Seaboard Coast Line until supervisory personnel were able to get the trains running again.

The first season wound up its first grinding season with 943,754 tons of cane ground, producing 75,000 tons of sugar, processed along with 5,633, 000 gallons of blackstrap. Due to a hard freeze and other problems, the mill assigned 150,000 tons of cane to be ground at Okeelanta.

But the first year was a distinctive success in that both the contractors and suppliers and the engineer's deferred payments for construction were paid off in full.

A great deal of the credit for the rapid start of the sugar industry can be given to USSC. Most of the cane first planted in the Glades was developed at USSC's research

center in Clewiston.

The Canal Point Experiment Station was involved in cane research, but was dealing with varieties suitable for Louisiana fields. Another organization working with the plant was the University of Florida.

When sugarcane planting began to "bust loose," it was cane from USSC that was available and largely used.

The first season, the co-op employed 320 seasonal and full-time workers and 1,200 laborers from offshore. About 150 people remained on the payroll year-round.

In 1963, the mill was expanded from its original capacity of 6,000 tons per day, which was changed from five during construction, to 8,000 tons.

Its expansion has increased so that today, the mill's capacity is 15, 000 tons daily, average for the season, and the record for a single day's grinding is 21,109 tons. It has become the largest capacity mill in the United States.

During the 1976-77 crop, the mill ground 2, 369,723 tons of cane, an average of 38 tons grown on each of the 62,539 acres harvested.

Today, the mill employs 2,645 people, 1,700 of which are offshore workers and 430 of whom are seasonal. Today, 515 people work at the co-operative year-round.

The grower's list has not substantially changed since 1961, though a few have dropped out or sold their holdings.

Those included on the potential grower's list were as follows: Lewis Friend, A. Duda and Sons, Dr. Clifford Snyder, Wedgworth Farms, D.G. Herring, Herring Ranch, Cabassa Farms, F.C. Markham, Robert Simonson, Miami Sod, 715 Farms, J.W. Repper, Stokes Farms, Kirchman Farms, Jeff Thomas Corporation, South Bay Growers, Vandergrift-Williams Farms, Apelgren and Hundley, Joe T. Boynton, Joe E. Thompson, W.H. Vann, Inc., Boe Brothers, J.W. Repper, Jr., Gold-Dobrowsky, Bramson Farms, George Hudspeth.

S.N. Knight, Fritz Stein, Jr., Ray Roth & Son, Belle Glade FFA, Richard S. Johnson, Holgate Company, Inc., Walter Kautz, New ramch Corp.

Eltrose Farms, Hill Ranch, Inc., E.L. Parker, Horace Harris, Hall & Thomas, Inc. W.R. Willson Farms, D.W. Cunningham, F.W. Cross, Jr., James G. Thomas, Jr.

William E. Erickson, Chamblee Farms, Summit Ranch, H.Q. Ranch, Willie Veal, Jr., Serralles Everglades Farms, Manuel Gonzales;

R.L. Braddock, H.E. Hill, C.W. Kidder, W.R. and Lon Wilson, A.H. Heckler, J. Allen Baker, Spooner and Wilder, J.H. Wilkinson, Jr., Billy Rogers;

Mrs. Jane Evans, Greenleaf Company, Sam Senter Farms, and Arlington Ranch, Inc.

Today, there are 56 grower-members led by an 11-member board of directors.

Sitting on the board are Robert D. Apelgren, Joe T. Boynton, Andrew Duda, Jr., Lewis Friend, Walter J. Kautz, Billy Rogers, Fritz Stein, Jr., John Tiedke, Roy Vandergrift, Sr., George Wedgworth, and W.R. Wilson.

The general manager of the cooperative is W.J. Miller, Jr., and other officers include Alfred L. Webre, P.M. McIntyre, W.J. Cato, Charles Modecki, Maurice Fletcher, R.C. Lee, Al Villageliu, G. Aleman and H.O. Santamaria.

Bank of Belle Glade was formed in 1963

The Bank of Belle Glade was formed in the spring and early summer of 1963 by community and business leaders.

C.A. (Mutt) Thomas was the first chairman of the board and the executive committee consisted of Claude Shirley, J.A. Ball, E.B. McDaniel, and Larry Royal.

The president of the new institution was E.B. McDaniel.

Directors were Robert Apelgren, James Ball, Joe T. Boynton, John Henry Logan, Robert Matthews, E.M. McDaniel, William M. Rogers, George Royal, Claude Shirley, C.A. Thomas and George Wedgworth.

Soon after being chartered, the bank's new building was under construction at its present site. It was built by Brad-dock Construction with Architect Charles Albert Cone doing the design work.



THE OLD BELLE GLADE City Hall during its opening ceremonies was decked out in bunting and proudly flew the 48-star American flag.

Pioneer tells experiences

When she first came to Lake Okeechobee as a girl of 12 on July 3, 1913, Mrs. W.L. Hunt, known to all her friends in Belle Glade as Lois McCandle, thought it was the most wonderful place in the world.

She came to Bare Beach, where with her family she "squatted" on some land and began to farm.

Their first year was a huge success. The family cleared five acres and planted two in cauliflower, making \$2,000 for the crop.

The results were so en-

couraging her father in-vested in an old fish camp, which Mrs. Hunt recalls was built of lumber with an iron roof and wooden floors.

The white pony she rode to the lake on was almost useless for transportation and when she started school, she poled or rowed three miles to the Bare Beach school each morning, then rowed back in the evening.

In addition to the four children in her family, Mrs. Hunt carried four

others belonging to a family named Williams back and forth.

She moved to Belle Glade in 1926 and met her husband, who was working for the W.T. Holloway Construction Company running a supply boat.

In describing her early years in Belle Glade, Mrs. Hunt noted they were "quiet."

Mrs. Hunt moved to Tampa in 1970 after living in Belle Glade for 44 years and lives there today.

"fine photography"

Averill's Studio & Camera Shop

- Since 1952 -
241 W. Ave A - Belle Glade



CUSTARD APPLE TREES grew so close together they looked impregnable, but walking beneath them was not difficult. This reight-of-way clearing became the first road to Pahokee in the early 20s.

Join
the
fun
you'll look
better and
feel better!

**Health Nut
Hut**

Main St. Belle Glade

Community building was the place to go

The community building in Belle Glade during the late 1920s and the early 1930s was the place to go for action.

Each Sunday the building was tied up from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. for services. Sunday school was always well attended and it started at 10:00 a.m.

On Wednesday night, church goers returned to the community building

and used it then. The rest of the time, it was used by various clubs and groups who wished to hold a meeting. But folks almost had to stand in line, as in this account in the Everglades News in September, 1929:

"The farmer's meeting which because of the dance at the Legion Hall was scheduled to meet at the community building was forced because of court being held there to retire to the Alston Drug Store. Some of those who were late did not get the announcement of a change and were disappointed."

In between meetings, the community building was the place to go for a sometimes-not-so-quiet game of cards or checkers. According to writer Gerri Koyker "all the men and boys spend time there" during the day.



Time
Marches
On!
And —

As Belle Glade celebrates its 50th birthday, we at Belle Glade Machine are working to move forward with sands of time —

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Machine
Works, Inc.**

Since 1938
24 SE Av C - Belle Glade



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1965
Cars
Trucks
A-1 Used Cars

Rent-a-Car Leasing
Repairs - Body Shop
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**Watson
Ford**

Airport Rd.
525 NW Ave. L
Belle Glade

New school cost \$9,470

Following the 1928 hurricane, the 19 students at the school in Belle Glade found themselves without a place to meet.

A meeting of concerned citizens, led by Lou Betzner, held a meeting with the school board and soon afterwards, the board awarded bids for a new building.

The building consisted of four school rooms, a library, and a principal's office and was to serve students in Belle Glade, Chosen and Tory Island.

In an article in the Everglades News in 1930, Mrs. J.P. Mahaffey, elementary teacher, noted several students had excellent attendance over the past six weeks.

These students were Jimmy Boren, Helen Homes, Mae McLendon and Oswald Cook. Making the honor roll for good deportment were Oswald Cook, Wilbur

listed Donald Hainey, Fred Miller, Fred Mock, Glennia Betzner, Floretta Webster, Arther Lieberman and Jacqueline Gay on her honor roll for "good work."

Elizabeth Motes, the school's other teacher,



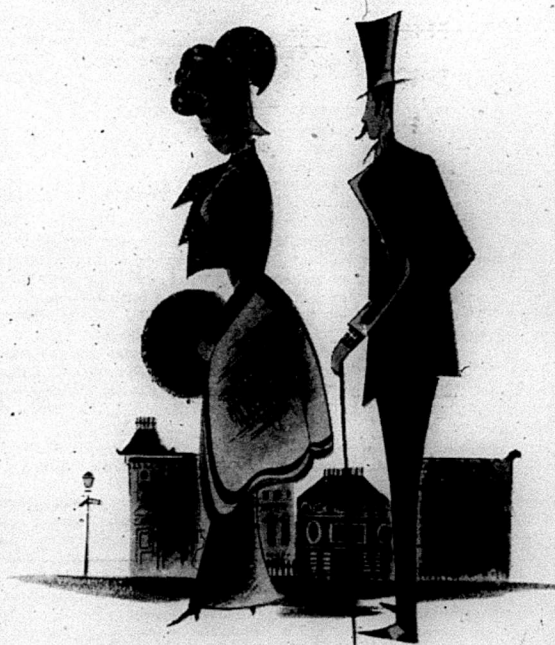
Milady will
love the
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**Home
Boutique**
Belle Glade



Good meals
& thrifty
prices at ...
**Fr-Eddy's
Restaurant**
and Carry
Out Service
949 W Canal St N
Belle Glade

KAHN'S

"fine apparel for ladies and gentlemen"



Serving Belle Glade since 1929

KAHN'S

133 W. Ave. A

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Chamber of Commerce instrumental in first bank

It didn't take the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce long to begin working after its first meeting, held Feb. 11, 1938, in the Woman's Club Building.

At the second-ever meeting, James Darden, Dick Bowman, Bob Creech, Arthur Wells, R.K. Harris and Walter Greer were named to a road committee to "see what could be done about the deplorable road conditions."

And at the very next meeting, the Chamber launched a full-scale attempt to solve another serious problem, the lack of a bank in Belle Glade.

Numerous residents of the city had to travel to the Bank of Pahokee to deposit their business and payroll funds and a bank was sorely needed.

H.M. McIntosh, president of the Bank of Pahokee, appeared at one of the early meetings to ask the Chamber if the people of Belle Glade wanted a bank.

The answer was a resounding "YES" and McIntosh pledged 100% backing by the Bank of Pahokee and volunteered to head up an institution if it could be built.

A bank committee was formed, consisting of P.C. Keese, Arthur Wells, J.O. Darden, J.H. Chamber, Walter Hooker, K.E. Lutz, H.H. Wedgworth, W.P. Dill and Herbert Beck to see what could be done.

The committee soon located a man, W.R. Geary of Orlando, who was interested in assisting the community in getting a bank, but his offer was finally declined.

A few months later, G.L. Woolley was introduced to the membership and told them his purpose for being in the area was to try to get a bank chartered for Belle Glade.

Woolley explained he was connected to J.C. McCrocklin of Tarpon Springs and went on to say that if the people wanted a bank, it should have a working capital of \$50,000 with a surplus of \$10,000.

He noted that if the people of the city were willing to purchase stock in half this amount, his organization would furnish the balance.

After a great deal of discussion and excitement, A.E. Kirchman, B. Bank of Belle Glade Y. Free and Fritz Stein,

Sr. were appointed by quarters to be "temporary."

Chamber president "Dad" Scullen to contact people in the area and determine if \$30,000 of stock could be sold.

A few weeks later, the committee reported back saying if McCrocklin could guarantee the charter, they could guarantee to sell at least \$30,000 in stock.

Soon afterwards, the Chamber received a telegram from the state comptroller advising that a charter for a local bank would be granted in the "near future."

The near future dragged on for two years and nothing more was heard. In the meantime, the city had grown considerably and there was more need for a bank than ever.

The old banking committee of the Chamber was still in existence, but new appointments had been made to it and the Chamber decided maybe their luck would be better trying closer to home.

The committee took several trips to West Palm Beach to discuss the possibility of a bank with several institutions in that city. One, Florida National, indicated some interest and even more work was done.

This time, their efforts were rewarded.

The Florida National Bank of Belle Glade was formed in August, 1941 with two local directors being appointed. One was Mrs. Ruth Wedgworth and the other Howard L. Haney. The other directors were all from West Palm Beach or Miami.

Mrs. Wedgworth said recently an uncle had given her \$5,000 to invest in a local bank, if and when one was ever built, and for a number of years, she kept this money in the accounts payable file until the opportunity did come along to invest it.

The first offices of the new bank were in the Scarboro Building at the intersection of Avenue A and Second Street and the first president was I.A. Usina.

The other employees were Milton Campbell, cashier; Russel Atkinson, assistant cashier; Mrs. Harold Reidel, secretary; and Leroy Alspaugh, teller.

The teller's cage was protected by chicken wire and the sign over Florida First National Bank of Belle Glade proudly proclaimed these

quarters to be "temporary."

They were temporary for 12 years. In the meantime, the directors had voted to purchase property north of the Hillsboro Canal on the corner of Main and Lake Road and had soon after determined the land wasn't large enough and sold it.

In the meantime, the \$60,000 in assets were growing rapidly. By 1948, the two million mark had been passed and the need for additional space was becoming acute, especially in view of the fact the staff had expanded twofold.

The directors scouted out a new location and purchased the property on which the bank now stands at the corner of Avenue B and SW First Street, then allocated \$85,000 for the construction of the bank building.

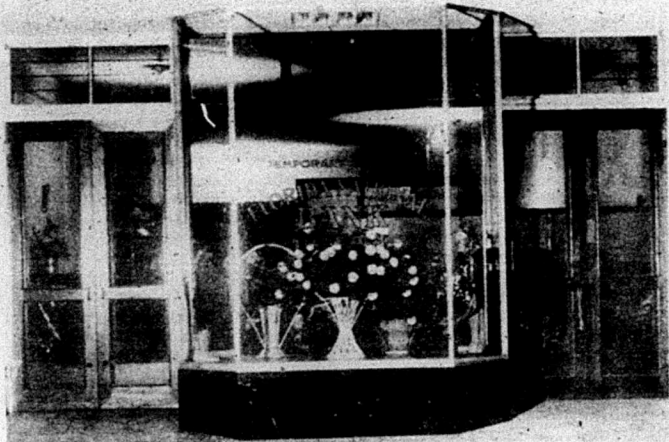
It opened in February of 1954 and included all the latest conveniences such as a night depository, safety deposit boxes and drive-in window.

By that time, the staff had risen to 11 people and assets were \$2.7 million.

The Belle Glade Herald noted in an editorial upon the opening of the bank that six-fold growth in 11 years wasn't bad at all.

Still in the same offices, the bank now has 27 employees with assets of over \$17 million. In the past seven years, assets have risen from \$8.5 million.

John Turnbull took over the management as president in May of 1974, and the other officers are



BELLE GLADE'S FIRST BANK opened its doors in 1941 after Florida First National opened an institution in the city. The "temporary" offices in the Scarboro Building remained the bank's headquarters for 12 years.

James R. Kelly, vice president and cashier; Diane B. Garrido, assistant cashier; J. Allen Baker, Dr. D.A. president; Rebecca Sheppard, vice K. Blakely, assistant president; Lurline cashier. The directors are Dr. and John Turnbull.



"Fun
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Florida
Sun"

That's what your recreation department is all about!
We're proud of Belle Glade and wish our fine city a happy 50th year!



"Years of faithful and dependable service"

Badcock Furniture Store

256 Ave A
Belle Glade

Belle Glade Recreation Department
Employees and Staff

Royals one of earliest businesses

The largest independently owned retail business in the Everglades is the Royals' family operation, begun in 1931 by George Royal and his wife, the former Sue Brown.

At the present time, there are eight Royals selling a variety of merchandise, from furniture to clothing, along with five other retail businesses such as the Ben Franklin in Belle Glade.

In addition to these ventures, Royal's holds extensive real estate interests in most of the communities around the

lake and has devoted a great deal of capital to shopping center development.

Royals' father operated a general store for 30 years, and from this beginning, he must have received his earliest training in retailing. He was graduated from the University of Georgia and moved to Inverness, Florida back in 1922, where he became an assistant bookkeeper for a large lumber company.

The company purchased land in Indian-town and Royal moved with them, finally assuming operation of the company's commissary. The site was purchased by the Seaboard Coast Line and Royal moved to Kelsey City, where he met his future wife.

The night the tragic hurricane of 1928 struck, he and his wife were wed and the next day, his store was totally wiped out by the storm. They decided to move to Texas and start all over again.

After working in that state for awhile with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Royal was transferred to Atlanta and met a friend who wished to return to the Glades.

They did and Royal went to work for United States Sugar Corporation before he and Arthur Wells, another man destined to play a major role in the area's development, each had saved up \$400 to put into a business of their own.

Royal not only worked for USSC, but he also sold used cars in order to obtain the necessary money.

In 1931 the partnership of Royals and Wells opened a general store in Bean City. Business, mostly from bean pickers, was so good that soon afterwards they expanded and opened stores in Lake Harbor, Ritta Island and Indian-town.

The Indiantown store was the reason the men got into the lumber business. Royal said "stead of cash, they bartered merchandise for high-quality lumber from the sawmills and soon they had a surplus of lumber and began to sell it in their other outlets."

At that time, Royal said, lumber was costing them from \$10 to \$18 per thousand running feet. The lumber business stores were built came at an opportune time in Immokalee in 1951, time as the price quickly Pahokey in 1958, Okeechobee while the men still chose in 1960 and Clewis-

ton in the mid-60s.

Following those stores, others opened in Pahokey, Runyon and Clewis-ton.

In 1933, Royal opened a warehouse in West Palm Beach and began to buy groceries and other merchandise at wholesale, thereby allowing him to reduce prices while maintaining quality in his Glades stores.

Royal said this was one of his most important steps in the early development of the business and his chain was the first in the Glades to handle merchandising in this manner.

It wasn't until 1940 that the first Royal's store opened in Belle Glade, the city that was to become Royal's headquarters.

The partnership of Wells and Royal had split up in 1936 with Wells keeping the Bean City and Pahokey stores and Royal the ones in Clewis-ton and Lake Harbor.

The Belle Glade Royal's was the first "super store" in the Glades. It could have been compared to the modern-day supermarket and department store combined. In a full-page grand opening advertisement, specials such as girls' dresses at 25 cents each and men's leather jackets for \$6.95 were listed.

The Belle Glade Royal's gave the chain four stores, Lake Harbor, Clewis-ton, and one opened in the mid thirties in South Bay.

Since then, the chain has grown into its present state. It's come a long way, says Royal, since barges used to have to try to keep the Ritta Island store stocked.

The family's first shopping plaza was a piecemeal development in Clewis-ton that is now the Sugar Square Shopping Center. It was begun with the Royal's store and advanced into the present complex containing an Eagle, variety store, radio and television store and a supermarket.

Royal got out of the grocery business in 1956 when they sold their interests to Winn Dixie company they've been closely associated with in said, mutual benefit ever since.

Royal's "junior department" stores were built came at an opportune time in Immokalee in 1951, time as the price quickly Pahokey in 1958, Okeechobee while the men still chose in 1960 and Clewis-

ton in the mid-60s.

Shopping center development began in the 1970s. The first one was begun in Okeechobee and was the first shopping plaza in the Glades.

In 1972 the family built Glades Plaza in Belle Glade, in 1974 the South Bay Mini Plaza, Sugar-land Plaza in Clewis-ton in 1975, and in 1976 the plaza in LaBelle. In 1977 they built the Immokalee Plaza and at the present time, are working on a new plaza in Okeechobee.

Today, there are very few vacancies in any of the Royal's plazas, perhaps an indication of continuing business success in the Glades.

The Royal family continues to be optimistic about the future of the Glades. "There will be new problems we haven't yet faced," said Larry Royal; "but we are optimistic..."

As a family-owned business, the Royals have

been able to put their profits back into the business, continuing to expand and venture out into new fields. Recently they built a Burger King in Clewis-ton and are planning other centers in several locations for the future.

Much of their success they attribute directly to their employees, many of whom have been with the operation for many, many years. In turn, the employees are benefiting through profit sharing pension plans.

Recalling the past, the Royals note they have sold almost every human need at one time or another and before Belle Glade had a bank, were the community's unofficial bankers.

Tickets were given to field workers for each hamper of beans they picked and Royal's stores had worked out an arrangement with the farmers to cash these

tickets for the workers. Sometimes pickers would be lined up "three blocks long" waiting to cash their tickets.



- homes
- lots
- acreage
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Estate**
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100th
Anniversary
1877-1977

In Belle Glade Since 1965

From plywood to pharmaceuticals, fertilizer to fabrics, lipsticks to raincoats, and from automobile seat covers to engine blocks, Quaker's furfural and derivative chemicals are there in one form or another.



CHEMICALS DIVISION
The Quaker Oats Company

Riedel was Belle Glade's promoter

When Charles Edward Riedel immigrated to the Glades in 1919, there was no Belle Glade. When he died in 1956, he had seen it grow into a thriving community.

And much of Belle Glade's success could be attributed directly to him.

According to Lawrence Will in his book "From Swamp to Sugar Bowl," Riedel moved to Okelanta from Chesaning, Mich. and settled on a 20-acre farm on the Bolles Canal.

When William Clark, one of the first of Belle Glade's original citizens, decided to seek greener pastures elsewhere, Riedel bought his 23-acre farm which was located on what became the west

side of Main Street.

M.F. Meyer, whose farm was on the east side, was awarded a contract to work on the Connors Highway and needed a houseboat for his crew, so he and Riedel swapped, Meyer getting the boat and Riedel Meyers' farm.

This was very fortunate for Riedel, as it turned out, because when the old muck road was built along the Hillsboro Canal from West Palm Beach, it dead-ended in the middle of property Riedel now controlled.

Riedel got busy in more ways than one. He hired a surveyor and laid out lots on the Clark farm, reserving a park where the old City Hall once stood and put a 100-

foot wide street down that was to become Main Street.

This done, in 1925 he held an auction and sold lots nearest the end of the new Main Street.

Will recalls in his book that he purchased several lots from Riedel, paying \$250 for two and \$350 for a corner lot. He was ashamed to tell people about the high price, but noted at the same time, he bought property in the thriving city of David for a much greater amount.

During the depression years following, Will let his Davie lots go for taxes but held onto those in Belle Glade and made his living from them from then on, building the Pioneer Motor Parts that still stands on Main Street on the corner lot.

Several years later, about 1927, Riedel subdivided the old Meyer's farm and the town began to grow in earnest. About the same time, Tom Walter subdivided his farm a half mile west and laid out a subdivision for Negro farm laborers.

With the bursting of the Florida Real Estate Boom, people who had lost everything on the coast poured into Belle Glade to plant beans, then the quickest and most profitable cash crop.

Riedel had his townsite going and laid out, and waiting and they began to settle on it.

Riedel's interests weren't wholly in real estate, however.

He also purchased a generator and began to furnish electric power to the two hotels in town, the older one built by Meyer and the newest built by George Tedder, as well as some of the neighboring houses.

Riedel was also into water with a well and automatic pump supplying his electric customers.

He and Leo J. Rader became "sort-of" partners in 1927 and went in together on a complete electric plant. But the town, incorporated in April of 1928 and they were forced to seek a franchise before they could begin operations, even though most of their wiring, poles and generators were in operation.

But apparently there was some bad blood between the new City Fathers and Rader and the franchise was refused

and given instead to generator to the lines Florida Power and Light. Riedel had already run.

This company bought what poles and wiring it needed from Rader and Riedel, but left them with much of their material of no value. Even so, Riedel continued to provide power for several months until the new franchise holder could move into Belle Glade.

Florida Power and Light was having its own problems. The hurricane of 1928 had flooded Riedel's electric operation and even though he fixed it up and continued to provide power, the same storm had ravaged FP&L lines throughout the state.

The new franchise holder could do little beyond trying to hold onto and fix up what it already had and they didn't even move into Belle Glade until the summer of 1928, and even then, all they did was to hook up a small constructed.

Fearful they might lose the franchise, FPL in December, 1928, gave the order to J. Wyly Keck, the company's superintendent of plants, to build and install a distribution and generating system.

Under their agreement their franchise would be lost if they didn't have power available by December 31 so Wyly hired a crew, dismantled an abandoned power station and moved it to Belle Glade. In six days, he had the plant and system in operation.

Meanwhile Riedel was having his own problems. The flood had floated off most of his belongings, but undaunted, he went back to work, being instrumental in getting a new church built and working to have the Woman's Club building



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Cabin Cleaners

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Need financing for that new buggy!

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The Spirit and Ingenuity that pioneered the Glades is still alive at—

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Conventional and Construction Loans—Reasonable Rates

Glades Plaza Belle Glade



MRS. RUTH WEDGORTH looks over church plans with Rev. Leonard Vandewater.

4-H project start of cattle industry?

It is possible that a 4-H project was largely responsible for showing people in Belle Glade the value of cattle as an agricultural product.

In the early 1940s, only one dairy existed in the area and the only herd of cattle was at the Experiment Station, where Ralph Kidder was conducting research on them.

George Wedgworth, then in junior high school and a nephew of Kidder, decided his 4-H project for the year would be one of the cattle. With the help of Kidder and Dr. Bair, who gave him mixtures of grass seed for pasture, Wedgworth launched into his project with enthusiasm.

He literally plowed up the back yard and put it into pasture, using Dr.

Bair's recommendations for grass seed, and bought six steers. The steers cost him 4.5 cents per pound and he fattened them on the new pasture.

There was a bad freeze during this time, but Wedgworth's pasture stayed green and the steers doubled their weight. Better yet, the price rose from 4.5 to nine cents per pound.

He sold them and bought nine more, fattened and sold these, and bought 23 cows and a Santa Gertrudis cross bull that originated from the King Ranch in Texas.

Today, every head of cattle on the Wedgworth Ranch is a direct descendant of those first 23 cows and bull, with the exceptions of purebred bulls.

Mrs. Wedgworth active citizen

When H.H. Wedgworth and his wife Ruth decided they would become farmers, it amused the local folks.

Wedgworth came to the new town in 1930 as a plant pathologist assigned to the Experiment Station, vacating a staff position he had held at Michigan State University.

After working at the station for three years, he announced he would begin growing celery, a crop he had experimented with at the station. Local farmers, some of whom were amused at the antics of the Experiment Station staff, didn't consider a man with "book larnin'" to his credit solid farmer material.

But they were in for a surprise.

Wedgworth and his wife purchased a 320 acre muck farm and planted 80 acres of celery. Then a 10-inch rain came and the banks failed, all in one season. It was almost a disaster, though the husband and wife working together were able to salvage enough to keep planting their celery crop.

This one was more successful and they were formally launched as muck vegetable farmers.

Wedgworth was a man of vision and ideas and as the years passed, he began to branch out. In 1936 he built a packing house, in 1937 a fertilizer plant and in addition, started a farm supply house.

But in 1938, while he was working to install a ten-ton ice maker in the newest enterprise, an ice plant, the machinery fell and he was killed.

"I called all the employees together and asked them if they wanted to go on," recalls Mrs. Wedgworth. They did and Mrs. Wedgworth did.

Today the Wedgworths have two separate corporations, Wedgworth Farms and Wedgworth, Inc. with over 50 full-time employees handling over 7,000 acres of cane and cattle along with the large fertilizer plant located in Belle Glade.

How it got to where it is now is a testimonial to the woman who, with "lots of help from our employees," kept the business thriving.

After his death, Mrs. Wedgworth and her three children "just got

to work" and expanded and enlarged the family's celery and other vegetable operations. Celery was good to them, and Wedgworth grew the crop for 45 years before phasing it out two years ago.

In between, the company experimented with a variety of crops, including beets, radishes, carrots, spinach and corn.

Their packing house handled not only their own produce, but crops grown by many of the other farmers in the area. Their fertilizer plant produced a product used by many of the farmers as it was "custom designed" for the muck soils. And their close association with the Experiment Station was of tremendous benefit to everyone.

When George Wedgworth, her oldest son, came back from college in 1950, he was full of ideas and launched straightaway into them.

One of Wedgworth's first projects was to work with Vernie Boots on the development and construction of a mechanical celery harvester. It was a success. So successful, in fact, that the same machine was still being used when the Wedgworths phased out celery two years ago.

In the meantime, Mrs. Wedgworth was becoming increasingly involved with civic and social activities. As an indication of this work, among the awards and honors she has received two honorary doctoral degrees, one from Florida Southern College and the other from the University of Florida, sits on the board of trustees of Florida Southern, was elected president of the Florida Horticultural Society, the only woman ever to hold that office, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, the Lions Club Achievement Award and was named an International Honorary Lion, served on the Palm Beach County School Board, various local, state and church migratory boards and councils, was awarded the Woman of the Year award by the Chamber of Commerce, and has been a delegate to two Democratic conventions.

The list could go on and on, but perhaps the plaque she is most proud of is one given to her in 1970 by the Everglades Progressive Citizens, Inc., a black organization, for outstanding service in employment.

In addition to all this, she has been selected as the Parade Marshal for the Belle Glade 50th Anniversary Parade and will soon travel to Gainesville to receive the Award of Merit from the Gamma Sigma Delta for distinguished service to agriculture.

Mrs. Wedgworth's children, George, Mrs. Helen Jean Boynton and Mrs. Barbara Oztman, all live in South Florida. The family operations continue to be carried on by some of her ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren, including Dennis in the fertilizer plant and Douglas on the farm.

She is active in many clubs and organizations and notes that her work in the church helped her through many rough moments.

Mrs. Wedgworth's chil-

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Jean Boynton and Mrs.

Barbara Oztman, all live

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—50th ANNIVERSARY, April 6, 1978

National Guard unit was started in 1948

Belle Glade boasts the only National Guard unit in the Glades, and the history of the local unit is varied.

It was first authorized by Congress on March 15, 1948 and was established as a company of the 211th Infantry.

Local post office was at Okeelanta

Belle Glade's post office, now the largest in the Glades, started out not in Belle Glade but in Okeechobee.

Okeelanta was a settlement on the canal that was sold to people in the north and midwest, usually site unseen.

When the new landowners arrived, they often found the settlement not to their liking and moved elsewhere, with a few exceptions.

When the infant town

The first meetings were held in the old Legion Hall, which is now Bennie's Auto Supply.

Due to local citizens influence, led by Luther Jones, editor and publisher of the Belle Glade Herald, the unit's present armory was built on South

Main Street in 1957, still housing the 211th.

In January, 1959, the unit's designation was changed to the 149th Quartermaster's Battalion and training was undergone in Ft. Lee, Virginia.

The unit was activated for ten months during the Berlin Crisis in 1961, carrying out support activities at Ft. Lee and in 1963, the designation was changed once again to the 1043rd Transportation Company.

The unit's mission at that time was to load and unload ships as terminal services and training was carried out in Newport News, Va.

In January, 1970, the unit once more became an infantry company with the present designation, Company B (P), First Battalion, 124th Infantry.

Today, there are 143

members of the local unit led by Second Lieutenant David M. Winter of Lake Worth, Sgt. Tom Pearson is the local platoon commander and commands in

Winter's absence. Members of the company live primarily in Clewiston, South Bay, Pahokee, Belle Glade and hold

monthly meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

Training is generally carried out in Jonathan Dickinson State Park in infantry tactics.



OFFICERS OF THE FIRST Future Farmers of America Chapter in Belle Glade were Ralph Bishop, state vice president and local secretary; J.D. Orser, reporter; H.E. George, Advisor; Joe Murphy and Scott Lee, treasurer. The chapter was formed in 1941.

"Special Announcement"

Belle Glade celebrates its "50th" Birthday!

Congratulations to all the townspeople, businessmen, workers, housewives, children, teens and senior citizens that have made working for a bigger, brighter tomorrow their main goal!

Bank of Belle Glade

108 SE Ave D — Belle Glade

16B—50th ANNIVERSARY, April 6, 1978

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